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C H R Y S A L :

OR, THE ADVENTURES

OF A G U I N E A.

Wherein are exhibited

VIEWS OF SEVERAL STRIKING SCENES,

WITH

Curious and interesting ANECDOTES of the
most Noted Persons in every Rank of Life,
whose Hands it passed through,

IN

AMERICA, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, GERMANY,
and PORTUGAL.

*---Hold the Mirror up to Nature,
To shew Vice its own image, Virtue its own Likeness,
And the very Age and Body of the Times
His form and Pressure.*

SHAKESPEAR.

Qui capit ille facit.

By an ADEPT.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:

Printed for T. CAVELL, Bookfeller in the Strand.

MDCCXCIV.



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CHRYSAL:
OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF A
GUINEA.

BOOK I

CHAP. I.

CHRYSAL continues the account of the members. The history of a remarkable person is given for a remarkable purpose. His pleasures bring him into distress, from which he extricates himself by making them subservient to his interest, and gets into a good KEEPING. Not content with the mother, he casts his eye upon the daughter also, but is disappointed, and forced to take up with a share of her fortune, for procuring her in marriage for another. He resolves to be a GREAT MAN; and for that purpose breaks with his KEEPER, when he has got from her all she had to give.

ONE of the most specious arguments alledged against the obligation to virtue, is the success that is often observed to attend the violation of it, in the
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general pursuits of the world. Of this you see the strongest instance which this age has afforded, in that man who sits at the left hand of the superior, wrap'd up in the consciousness of his own importance, and smiling contemptuously at the company around him, while they believe he is joining in their mirth.

A particular account of his life would lead into too great a length. It would seem a satire on mankind rather than a detail of the actions of one man. However, as a short sketch of it may be of advantage, by unveiling this mystery in the conduct of heaven; and proving the insufficiency of the highest prosperity to confer happiness, even in the hour of attainment, when that prosperity is not founded in, and procured by virtue, I will just run over the great heads of his story, with that brevity which the disagreeableness of the subject naturally dictates.

The opening of his life gave no prospect of his present exalted station. Pleasure in every licentious excess soon dissipated a small patrimony; and he was hardly entered into man's estate, when want, of his own earning, began to stare him in the face.

The peculiar cast of a man's mind is in nothing more strongly shewn, than in the expedients he has recourse to, in order to extricate him from difficulties. Instead of quitting the vices which had brought him into this embarrassment, he resolved on the first alarm to build his hopes of fortune on them, by pursuing them in a different manner. Experienced in all the mysteries of intrigue, he knew that age and deformity will purchase pleasures, for which youth and beauty expect to be flattered, if not even paid. Unrestrained therefore by any scruples of honour or conscience, he directly de-

termined

terminated to fix upon some wealthy female of the former class, and never doubted making her passion repay him manifold, what he had expended on the gratification of his own.

I see the abhorrence with which the mention of such a scheme strikes you. Venal prostitution in the female sex, though cut off from every other method of prolonging a wretched existence, is the lowest state to which it can sink. What then can be said of a man, who, uncompelled by such irresistible necessity, voluntarily gives up the dignity of his nature, and hiring himself to be the slave of lusts, which are a disgrace to it, contentedly eats the bread of infamy and vice? Language yet wants a name for such baseness.

This hopeful scheme was no sooner formed, than carried into execution. As his character gained him easy access to all such as were proper for his purpose, he immediately singled out an old dowager, in whose disposal the dotage of a dying husband had left the accumulated wealth of several ages of successful industry. Such a quarry engaged all his attention in the pursuit. He paid his addresses to her, though destitute of every thing that could raise natural desire, with so much assiduity and warmth, that she readily received him into her good graces; and in return for the pleasure she found in his conversation, lavished her fortune upon him with a profusion that even exceeded his hopes.

From the principle on which he set out, it may be judged that he did not neglect to improve such an opportunity of repairing his broken fortunes, and laying up a fund for a future day, out of the overflowing of her untimely fondness. But unbounded as her genero-

fity was, he was far from being content, while any thing farther remained possibly to be got from her. Beside the great wealth which was directly in her power, a very large estate was by family-settlements to descend to an only daughter, whom she had by her husband. As soon therefore as her modest lover had got possession of the former, his heart yearned for the latter also, with as much greediness, as if his wants were only increased by his acquisitions.

But though he was seldom long at a loss for means to accomplish any thing he had in view, as he was under no restraint from principle in the choice of them, there was an obstacle in his way here, which all the fertility of his genius could not surmount. This was his connection with the mother, the nature of which he well knew would never let her consent to a scheme destructive of itself; for he had no fear of her making opposition from motives of honour or virtue to any thing that did not clash with that, as he found none in his own conscience even to this, though contrary to the first principles of nature.

Since he could not therefore get the daughter's whole fortune, by marrying her, he resolved to exert his influence on her mother to give her to some person of his chusing, who should divide it with him, as a recompence for making the match. For this purpose, he pitched upon a near relation of his own, who readily gave into the scheme, though possess himself of a fortune that placed him above the necessity of stooping to such means. The consent of the guardian mother, as he foresaw, was easily obtained. She was happy in having such an opportunity of proving her regard for him, as well as, of removing her daughter out of his reach,

reach, his attention to whom, while his first project was in his head, had not escaped her jealous notice.

His share of the prize, added to his other gains, made him now a man of considerable fortune, and fired him with an ambition of making a figure in the state. To accomplish this, the natural turn of his mind suggested it to him to marry into some family, the interest and splendor of which might drown the obscurity of his own original, and assist his hopes. Nor did he apprehend any opposition to this scheme, from the same quarter that had defeated the former. He had now gotten from her all that she had to give; and the same principle which prompted him to be the hired drudge of her loose desires, made him find no scruple to leave her service, when she was no longer able to pay the wages of it.

Nothing is easier than to make matter for dispute. On her expressing her resentment, with the haughtiness which she thought the circumstances of the connection between them gave her a right to assume, as she had on many occasions before, at something he had done with design to provoke her, his sensibility took fire, and in just indignation at treatment so improper for a man of honour to submit to, he bound himself by the most dreadful imprecations to shake off so intolerable a yoke for ever, and so flung out of her presence.

Her surprize at a behaviour, so different from what he had ever shewn before, suspended her resentment, and she waited with impatience for a repetition of the blandishments with which he had been accustomed to smother her anger. But what was her astonishment to find, that instead of making any advances of the kind,

he had actually withdrawn himself from her house. This alarmed her. In the arrogance of her former superiority, the loss of which she was not yet sensible of, she sent him a peremptory summons to attend her directly. But her commands had now lost their weight, and she received a refusal, the more cutting for being couched in cool, equivocal politeness. This drew on him an epistolary torrent of upbraidings, expostulations, and at last of the most tender intreaties; but all were equally ineffectual. He pleaded his rash vow, lamented the cruel obligation of it; and as she began to be softened by this address, hinted at a sense of religion, and even distantly recommended it to her, as the best consolation under the crosses and afflictions of life.

Such sentiments from him could mean nothing but sneering insult. In that light she took them. However as the nature of the affair made it improper for her to open her mind too explicitly, she resolved to play his own game back upon him, and affect to be convinced by arguments, of which she hoped to take advantage, at a proper time, though in a manner very different from his intention in applying them.

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Continued. He begins his scheme successfully by stealing a marriage. His late KEEPER makes an artful demand of all the presents she had given him, which he answers as artfully. He advances in his scheme, by steps exactly in his character, and gets into favour with a great person. CHRYSAL makes some remarks on the origin of the affections of the human mind, and the different manner of breeding men and horses, with the consequence.

WHILE she was pleasing herself with this thought, he had carried the most difficult part of his scheme into execution. The passion for play, which marks the character of the present age, though it really counteracts every social virtue, is yet the means of associating all kinds and ranks of people, who have, or even appear to have money to play for. At meetings for this purpose, he had found means to make an acquaintance with a nobleman, who was so pleased with his conversation, studied designedly to please him, that he admitted him to an intimacy in his family, which he knew so well how to improve with one of his daughters, that in despite of the disparity of age and rank, he soon prevailed upon her to crown his hopes by a private marriage, as the consent of her family could not be expected.

As the immediate fortune of the lady could not be thought an object of mercenary pursuit, when the first emotions of resentment gave place to reflection, his plea of passion was admitted as an excuse for this violation

lation of the sacred laws of hospitality; and his wife's father unknowingly completed his design, by exerting all his interest, which was very great, to advance him in the state.

The secrecy, with which it had been necessary for him to conduct this affair, and the rapidity of this success, prevented his late mistress from making any attempt to defeat it. As soon however as she recovered from the first stroke of her astonishment at the news of his marriage, she proceeded to put her scheme in execution. Accordingly she sent him compliments of congratulation on this happy fruit of his conversion, exhorting him to persevere in it; and professed her resolution to imitate his example; and dedicate the remainder of her days to the duties of virtue and religion; as a proof of which she proposed to begin by restoring to her injured daughter, as much as possible of the fortune which the confidence of her husband had left in her power, and she had unhappily lavished in pursuits, to the criminal nature of which he had opened her eyes. As all that was not dissipated beyond recovery was what she had given to him, and her restoring it therefore must depend on his making a restitution to her first, he was not a moment at a loss for the drift of this extraordinary instance of penitence, nor how to treat the account of it. He immediately returned her an answer, congratulating her in his turn, with sincerity equal to her own, on her pious resolutions, the intention of which, he said, would make amends for the impossibility of carrying them into execution; any farther than by stinting herself to the indispensable necessities of life, and laying up the rest of her large income to supply the place of the sums she had expended.

Such

Such an answer necessarily drew on an explanation, and of course a demand of the several presents she had made him in the course of their dalliance, and knew he had laid up, as he lived at her expence all the time. This was no more than he expected. He replied therefore, without being in the least disconcerted, that he looked upon every thing he had received from her not as presents, but payment for the time he had devoted to attending upon her; and for that reason thought it inconsistent with that regard for justice, which is inseparable from true piety, for her to demand such a restitution, especially as she must be sensible that he could not now make it, without doing wrong to his wife, who had an undoubted property in every thing that belonged to him; and concluded with desiring that his correspondence, which might be misunderstood, and so disturb his connubial happiness, might be dropped between them.

This sufficiently explained the motives of his conduct; and the despicable situation which she had brought herself to. However she was obliged to acquiesce with the best grace she could, without even the poor satisfaction of revenge; for he had taken care to insert in every paragraph of his letters such anecdotes of the connection that had been between them, that it was impossible for her to shew them in order to expose him, without exposing herself at the same time to the contempt and detestation of the world. From this time therefore all intercourse, beyond that of common civility, was broken off between them; though some consequences of their former connection, which happened even after her death, make one of the most striking parts of his story, as shall be observed in the proper place.

The

The first essays of a man's disposition indicate the rule by which his whole life will be conducted. The interest of the family into which he had thus stolen, had no sooner raised him to some degree of power, than he aspired to the highest; to attain which he resolved to pursue a method exactly in his character. This was to ingratiate himself; he regarded not by what means, with one of the first personages in the state, whose interest he meant to make use of, as long as it could serve him, and then fly in his face to shew his independence. Nature had never endowed a man with qualifications fitter for such a purpose. He was every thing, to every man. The gay were struck with his wit; the grave with his solidity; while an appearance of candour and sincerity, that lulled suspicion to sleep, won the confidence of all with whom he conversed; all which powers of pleasure were by a servility of disposition derived perhaps from a servile birth, prostituted to the humour of those whom he desired to please, however contrary to his own.

I see your curiosity at my saying, that the servility of his disposition might perhaps be derived from a servile birth. You want to have the origin of the affections of the human soul explained, whether they are imprinted on it, as its first emanation, from the source of all existence, or received by traduction from the immediate parents of the body, or only caused by the casual operation of external objects. But this, as I have said in other cases, is a difficulty that I am not at liberty to solve, as the question is not yet determined by the learned; though much ingenious reasoning has been displayed on every side of it. This only I shall say, that the practice of mankind seem to contradict the second of these opinions, who shew no regard to the dispositions

tions of those on whom they propagate their own species, though they trace back the pedigree of a dog, or an horse, for many generations, for fear of any fault in the breed; the reason, you may perhaps imagine, why the brutes bred with such care are found so much seldomer to degenerate, than the offspring of the greatest men.

CHAP. III.

Continued. He practises a successful method for gaining the confidence of his new patron, which he turns to good account. History of the lover who succeeded him in the good graces of his late KEEPER. He strives to prevent his taking advantage of his influence over her; and finding he fails in that, foels him into distress, which brings his life in his power. He slights many motives, which might have had weight with others, and takes advantage of the opportunity to get rid of him, and all farther trouble about him. He continues to dupe him, till the last moment when his eyes are opened, and all comes out.

AS soon as he had insinuated himself into the pleasurable liking of his designed patron, by an unwearied exertion of all his powers of pleasing, he directly proceeded with the nicest art to improve that liking into an important confidence. He watched his every action, word, and look, till he discovered the peculiar turn of his mind, to which he accommodated his own so implicitly, that the very faculties of his soul seemed to move only by the other's will.

They

They who are above deceit themselves, suspect it not in others. That self-love, which is inseparable from humanity, was easily imposed upon by such art. His patron liked himself in him; and insensibly came to think all reserve unnecessary with one, whose soul appeared to be only the shadow of his own. This soon gave him real consequence, as the numbers, whom interest or inclination attach'd to his patron, found it necessary to take the lead from him; and enabled him to grasp at every opportunity of engrossing power, and acquiring wealth, to supply those pleasures which he had quitted only from necessity, and returned to again the moment he had the means of obtaining them.

But all this torrent of success was not able to divert his attention for a moment from the smallest matter in which his avarice was concerned; as he gave the strongest proof in the following affair, to explain which I must look back to the woman, whose lavish fondness first raised his fortune, as it happened in consequence of his connection with her, though some considerable time after her death.

It is observed that habitual indulgence continues the passions proper to youth, after the fire that first supplied them is exhausted, and the end for which they were implanted by nature become impossible.

Old as this woman was, when our hero deserted her, and to appearance as incapable of feeling as raising desire, she had so long accustomed herself to the gratification of every sensual appetite, that she could not bear to live without a lover. The difficulty was, how to fix upon a proper object: for as interest was her only attraction, the first advances must necessarily come from her; and then her prodigality to her last had put it out

of

of her power to make it worth the while of such another as she might like to supply his place. Precluded thus from much delicacy in her choice, necessity directed her to one of her own domestics, something in whose circumstances pointed him out more particularly to her notice.

There is not a more despicable instance of vanity, than being ashamed of the connections of nature, because of poverty, when that poverty is not the effect of vice. A far distant female relation had from this vanity bequeathed to her a very considerable fortune, to which this man should have been heir, had not the lowness of his condition, a motive sufficient to have influenced a generous heart in his favour, made her think it would be a disgrace to her to be succeeded by him; for which reason she wantonly deprived him of the inheritance of his ancestors, to give it to one who did not want it. Dispirited by such unnatural injustice, for which the Law afforded no redress, he was no longer able to pursue the industry that had hitherto been his support; and sunk into such distress, that his despair made him at length throw himself at the feet of her who enjoyed his spoils, to beg relief.

This happened critically at the time when her inclinations for a new lover began to get the better of her grief for the loss of the last. Softened by what she had herself so lately felt, she pitied his distress; and as all the tenderer passions are allied, that pity was soon warmed into such love, as she was capable of feeling. Accordingly, as she had taken him into her family, on his first application, she now entrusted him with the management of her affairs, to give colour for the further intimacy she had in view. The consequence was

natural. He readily took hints, too plain to be overlooked; and she kept up his assiduity in her service, by some presents in hand, and grants of more, charged most of them indeed on the inheritance of his ancestors, which she had settled upon his predecessor in her favour after her death, till when they were not to take place or be discovered, to avoid his reproaches, as well as those of her daughter and her husband for such a repetition of her former follies; and because she did not chuse to straiten her own circumstances, by the immediate payment of them. But these wages of vice, however welcome in his present indigence, proved fatal to him in the end.

The hero of my tale, who saw the rise of this new favourite, and knew from experience on what it must be founded, though she affected to attribute her notice of him to gratitude to his relation, and retributory justice to himself, gave him a genteel and profitable employment under one of the many which he himself enjoyed in the state, professedly in compliment to her, but really to attach him to his own interest, and prevent his exerting his influence on her to obtain such grants as before-mentioned; for the turn of his own mind made him suspect every thing that was possible; and such is the partiality of man to himself, that he who has been ungrateful to all mankind, will yet expect gratitude from others.

Proud of this preferment, which raised his rank in life, and depending on the professions of friendship and promises which his new friend liberally made him, he thought proper at her death not only not to claim her grants for the present, to avoid breaking with him as he knew must be the consequence, but also to give up
to.

to him a particular gift, part of his own alienated inheritance, which he had received publicly from her, as a reward for his services, and trust to his honour for an equivalent return. But that return, when at length it was made, was as far from being equivalent, as his promises were from performances; nothing being more contrary to his intentions, than to enable him to support his claims to those grants, of which he had gotten notice, and judged from his own heart the reason of their being concealed. He continued therefore to feed him with promises, which led his vanity into expence, and encouraged him to embark in schemes that he had not a fund to execute, till he fell into distresses, to extricate himself from which he had recourse to means, that laid his life at the mercy of this his supposed friend.

There are some crimes, the consequences of which are so dangerous, that no punishment can be too severe to deter from them. One of the worst of these is imitating a man's signature with a design to deceive. It perpetuates the violation of truth, undermines the security of innocence, and breaks that confidence which is indispensibly necessary to carry on the concerns of life. But though no circumstances can, in a legal sense, extenuate the heinousness of this crime, there were some in this particular instance, which would have deterred any other man from the prosecution of it: it had been committed not with an intention of doing injustice to him, or any other, but to remedy for a time his injustice by raising apparently the value of the return he had made for the gift of their common benefactress, as I have before observed, nearer to an equality with it,

in order to procure present relief from distress, of which he had been, in so many senses, the cause.

But all these considerations were of no weight with him, when put in competition with the conveniency of getting rid of one whom he doubly hated, for being privy to his iniquities, and interfering with his interest. He hesitated not a moment therefore to make use of an opportunity, offer'd beyond his hopes, and sacrifice him, under the specious appearance of paying obedience to the laws.

In this it was necessary for him to act with the deepest dissimulation, to accomplish his design in its full extent. But this was no difficulty to him. He professed pity for his misfortunes; and while he corrupted all, in whom the watch placed confidence, to betray him, managed so as to seem to be compelled by law to appear against him, though he might with the greatest ease have avoided it, and buried the whole in silence. Nor did he stop here! his malice seemed to pursue him even beyond the grave; for instead of permitting him to prepare in peace for the approach of fate, he buoyed him up with hopes of a pardon, to earn which the deluded victim subscribed to every thing dictated to him to blacken his own character, and make void the grants, which he had purchased at so dear a rate; and in this infatuation he was kept to the last moment, to prevent his recanting; for which purpose, his nearest friends, and all who might have undeceived him, and administered comfort to his distress in the hour of anguish, were barred admittance to him.

But his eyes were opened on the verge of life, and in that awful moment when truth only is spoken, he revoked

revoked every thing he had been thus drawn in to say, and asserted the validity of the claims, which were the cause of his ruin; so that the whole scheme, laboured with such deep damnation to deceive the world, was defeated.

I see the horror with which you are affected at such a scene; and shall therefore close it with observing, that though he was permitted to perpetrate his crimes, divine justice prevented his reaping the fruits he proposed from them; as, beside the immediate price of his blood, it cost him more, than he earned by this complicated guilt, to stop the cries of the widow and orphan, and bribe venal defamation to silence, when it was too late, and the mystery of his wickedness was made known to the world.

CHAP. IV.

Continued. A view of his political character introduces a maxim not sufficiently attended to. He falls in a great stroke, and makes so many wrong ones, that he is kicked out of power, and forced to be content with profit, which he pursues through thick and thin. An unhappy event gives him an opportunity of shewing his ingratitude to his late Patron, on the merit of which he rises to higher power than ever, which he wisely exerts behind the curtain, and leaves HIS TOOLS to bear the blame. An account of the just fruits of so much success concludes his story.

YOU have hitherto seen him only in private life, I'll now give you a glimpse of his political character, which

which will convince you of a truth, for obvious reasons not sufficiently attended to, which is, that the ruling principles of the heart influence the actions in all capacities; and therefore, that it is impossible for a bad man to be a good minister.

The power to which the confidence of his patron raised him, was such as might have enabled him to effect either much good or evil, had he known how to have used it to the best advantage. But his eagerness in the pursuit of his own views put him off his usual guard, and discovered his principles before it was too late to oppose them.

The most exalted minds are not exempted from human weaknesses. That of his patron was a thirst of power, though without a thought of using it in any improper manner. Some late services, of the highest importance, which he had performed to the state, suggested to our hero, a scheme for rivetting his interest with him still stronger, by procuring him a power which he knew would center really in himself. Accordingly he exerted all his abilities and influence to wrest from the Sovereign an essential part of the incommunicable power of the crown, and vest it in him.

Such an attempt instantly gave the alarm to every real friend, not only of the government, but also of him in whose favour it was professed to be made; who though they harboured no fear of him, did not dare to offer such an affront to their Sovereign, and give a wound to the political constitution of their country, which might be of most dangerous consequence in less safe hands. The design therefore was defeated; and instead of serving his patron, only instilled doubts of
him.

him into those who were not acquainted with the uprightness of his heart.

Though the interest of his patron continued to support him for a considerable time after this, his whole conduct was such a series of blunders, (many of them so gross, that it was doing violence to probability to impute them to ignorance) that at length the voice of the people was raised against him, and he was obliged to give up all pretensions to power, and sit down with an employment of great, but mere profit, which all his own solicitations, though urged with the abject importunity of a common beggar, even to shedding tears, and imploring compassion for his wife and family; all he had hitherto acquired having been squandered as fast as it came, on his pleasures, would not have procured for him, had not his patron sanguinely espoused his interest, even to the injury of his own, though on a discovery of his principles and private character, now too notorious to be concealed, he rejected him from his esteem, and refused to give any farther countenance to his ambition.

From this time he applied every power of his soul to amass wealth, which he had too many opportunities of doing in his present employment, the most iniquitous of which he never failed to improve to still greater iniquity, regardless of public reproach, and the distress of myriads, suffering under his injustice, whose cries and imprecations ascended hourly to heaven against him.

Riches give consequence, especially with those who sacrifice every thing to luxury. Though he had no public power, his personal influence over individuals in a short time became greater than ever, as he too soon had an opportunity of proving.

One.

One of those events, which shew the vanity of all human designs, however wisely conducted and glorious in their end, threw the government into other hands. New men always adopt new measures, if only from an affectation of appearing wiser than their predecessors. In this change his late patron lost all influence, except that which virtue establishes in the hearts of the virtuous. This was an opportunity for shaking off the weight of obligation not to be missed by one of our Hero's turn. He not only deserted him directly in the basest manner, but also, to ingratiate himself with the present powers, fathered upon him the fictions of his own brain, under the appearance of betraying his secrets, and made a merit of aggravating his ingratitude and perfidy by open insults, in hope of provoking him to some unguarded act or expression of resentment, which might give advantage against him, by the common trick of applying to the master what is meant to the servant. But for once, all his art failed. Confident in conscious innocence and merit, he disdained to give weight to such base machinations by taking notice of them; and receiving this ingratitude as a punishment for having placed his esteem so unworthily, looked down upon him with indignant contempt, nor was ever heard to honour his name with utterance.

Such a proof of his sincerity gained our hero the confidence of his new friends, to whose tottering power his personal interest was found a necessary support. But he lent not that support but on his own terms. Cooled by experience, he had learned that the name of power is always pursued by envy and ambition. He therefore wisely gratified the vanity of others with the dangerous shadow, while he reserved the substance

stance to himself, dictating in safety, because in secret, all the measures for any mistake in which they were answerable.

In this situation you see him now. But such a series of success has been far from procuring him the happiness proposed in the pursuit. Recollection of the means imbitters the end. The ingratitude and perfidy of one, whom he had placed his whole confidence in, and bound to him by the highest obligations, upbraids him continually with his own baseness to his patron, and make him afraid to place trust in any other; so that he lives in a state of constant suspicion and dread of all mankind, destitute of that friendly confidence, which is the cement of society, the comfort and support of life.

Nor is this the only wound that rankles in his breast! the unhappy victim of his avarice, murdered under the formalities of law, is never absent from his thoughts a moment. Conjured up by conscience, his spectre haunts his dreams. He sees him in the dark. He hears him in the deepest silence. Nor can the loud laugh of mirth and riot drown his louder voice in the midst of company. Hence that gloom which you see hang upon his brow; that consciousness of guilt, which gives a cast of horror to his very smiles.

Consider now the story of this man; and own with reverence and awe that vice never wants an avenger; that wickedness is its own punishment. Who would rather be the apparent wretch, that wanders homeless through the world, fed by the cold hand of common charity, than he, with all his honours, power and wealth?

The characters of the rest, except him who had been
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my master's competitor for admission into the superior order of the society, are not distinguished by any thing to make them worth displaying; I shall therefore leave them in the obscurity they deserve; as I shall reserve his for another place, where some new occurrences will shew it in a stronger light.

CHAP. V.

CHRYSAL leaves the convent. His master proceeds in character. He practises a new manner of courtship; and signalizes his talent for intrigue, by debauching the daughter of his friend. Her distress, when too late, gives him some slight qualms of conscience; but he soon recovers, and goes on in his enterprize.

IT was my fortune to leave this place, in the possession of the same person who had brought me to it. The moment the meeting broke up, he flew to reduce into practice some part of the theory, which had been so well discussed among them. A person of distinguished learning and virtue, who had taken great pains though to little purpose, with some part of the education of his youth, had observed of late, that he seemed to pay him particular respect, and was more frequent than usual in his visits at his house, where he behaved with a moral decency, very different from his general character.

The good man saw this with real pleasure, and attributing it to the influence of his own conversation, as vanity will find its way into the best hearts, gave him all the encouragement he could to come, in hope of working a thorough reformation in him. But he was
deceived

deceived in that hope; and found, when too late, that he had cherished a viper in his bosom, to sting his heart.

Eusebius (that was this person's name) had an only daughter, on whose education he had exerted the tenderest care. She was now in that dangerous time of life, when ripened youth has given all the passions their full force, and reason not yet acquired strength to rule them. This danger though seemed less threatening to her than it is to most of the sex; nature, which had been most liberal to her mind, having denied those charms of face which too often prove a snare to the possessor; and the precepts of her father trained her in such principles of wisdom and virtue, as seemed a sufficient guard.

Such circumstances, exclusive of the obligations of honour not to infringe the laws of hospitality, (I add not virtue, for that has long lost all obligation in matters of this kind) would have prevented any other man from thinking of attempting her; but the pleasure of seducing innocence supplied every defect of beauty; and the difficulty of such a conquest doubled his ardour in the pursuit; as the triumph would establish the fame of his gallantry, which had never yet aspired beyond a servant wench; beside that the age and profession of her father secured him from the danger of personal resentment. Encouraged by all these equally powerful motives, the moment he saw her, he marked her out for the proof of his talents for intrigue, how to begin his attack though; so as to elude her father's vigilance, without alarming her virtue, was the question.

But he was not long at a loss. Difficulties, which appear unsurmountable to wisdom, are easily conquered by cunning, (and with this he was plentifully stored) because

because it will make use of means, which the other holds in abhorrence. In pursuance therefore of a plan, which he soon formed, he cultivated the acquaintance of Eusebius with the greatest assiduity; and in all his visits to his house, turned his conversation entirely upon points of speculative knowledge, in which he professed the most earnest desire of information. Eusebius took the bait. As these were the usual topics of discourse between him and his daughter, he was pleased at her being present, whenever my master was with him, both for her information, and to give her an opportunity of displaying the advantages she had received from his care; for which purpose he often led her and my master into arguments, to which he listened with the highest delight, as she always had the better in them. Nor was she less pleased on such occasions, than her father. The modest deference, which my master constantly paid to her judgment, was so flattering to her consciousness of superiority, that she soon became fond of his company; at the same time, that the artfulness of his address to her, for he never shewed any other notice of her sex, than by a most guarded delicacy in his expressions, deceived the watchful care of Eusebius so effectually, that he never scrupled to leave his two pupils (as he fondly affected to call them) alone together, when any business demanded his attendance elsewhere.

As this was what my master had all along aimed at, it may be supposed he did not neglect to improve opportunities so favourable to his wishes. He always turned his conversation directly to such subjects, as were most likely to inflame the passions, on the gratification of which he expatiated with a particular warmth

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and luxuriancy of imagination, but in terms so well wrapped up, as to conceal the poison they conveyed. The effect soon answered his design. Subjects, proposed merely as points of speculation, gave her no alarm. And when such thoughts are once suggested, nature will lead them to her own ends. Her passions had been smothered, not extinguished; and were the readier to take fire for such restraint. She heard him therefore, with pleasure, and slid insensibly into danger, the direct mention of which would have struck her with horror.

Matters were in this critical situation, when he returned from the society. The moment he alighted, he flew to the house of Eusebius, who unhappily was not at home. The conversation soon fell into its late course. There are some moments, in which nature will bear down all opposition. Though she had indulged herself in talking on such subjects, she meant nothing more. But he was too well versed in the practice to let her stop at the theory; and one unguarded minute murdered the peace of her future life, and blasted the fruits of all her father's care.

It is impossible to describe what she felt, when passion gave place to reason, and she became sensible of what had passed. Even he, hacknied as he was in the ways of wickedness, could not stand it. He left her precipitately, and for the first time felt something like remorse. But these qualms lasted not long. His desires were rather raised than satisfied; beside that to have stopped here, without making his success public, would have disappointed perhaps the principal pleasure he had in view. He resolved therefore to seduce her from her

father's house, that all the world might be witnesses of his triumph.

For this purpose he went to her the next morning, at a time when he knew Eusebius was usually engaged abroad. On enquiring for her, he was answered that she was not well; and was turning about to go away, when her maid, who from her own experience had suspected something of the cause of her mistress's illness, officiously ran to him, and told him she was in her dressing-room.

CHAP. VI.

Continued. CHRYSAL's master makes his triumph public, by seducing his new mistress away from her father's house. The manner in which he imposed upon them both to effect this; with the consolation he gave her for some natural consequences of his gallanery. His triumph is completed by her going upon the town, and her father's breaking his heart.

HIS intimacy in the family giving him a title to visit her there, he went directly up, where he found her in a condition that once more shook his resolution, and made him almost sorry for what he had done. She sat the image of despair! sleep had never closed her eyes! she had not changed the disordered dress of the day before; and her face was so swollen with incessant weeping, that he could hardly believe it was she.

Her maid withdrawing conveniently, as soon as he entered, he threw himself at her feet in all the trick of woe, and imploring her pardon, lamented what had passed (for which he imprecated heaven's vengeance on his

his own head) in such passionate tosses, as amid all her grief, alarmed her fear of his being overheard, for hitherto the secret was their own.

The first hint of this cured him of his penitence, and suggested to him how to proceed. He persisted in all the extravagance of grief; and acted his part so well, that forgetting her own distress for a moment, she was insensibly led to administer consolation to him. This was what he wanted! he at length seemed to be comforted by her arguments, which he gradually improved so far as to glance at a continuance of the guilty commerce, which he pressed for by the most rapturous professions of love, and the strongest vows of unalterable constancy and truth.

This was an attack, which she was no way prepared for! her heart was softened by grief; and shame for what was past precluded her arguments against a repetition. She hesitated however, silenced not convinced, till the voice of her father turned the scale. 'O! save me from his sight!' (exclaimed she, wringing her hands) 'save me from his sight! I go to death, to any thing rather than meet his eye.'

'Nor shall you meet it,' (answered my master, clasping her in his arms, and kissing away the tears that trickled down her cheeks,) 'I'll go this instant; and take him home with me as upon business, where I'll find means to detain him, while you pack up some immediate necessaries, and prepare to meet my faithful valet de chambre, who shall wait with a coach at the end of next street, and conduct you to my country-house, whither I'll follow you on the wings of love, and drown every disagreeable thought in rapture.'

He did not give her time to answer, but rushed di-

rectly out of the room, and meeting her ready maid at the door, took his cue from her, who told him she had excused her mistress's absence from supper the night before, on a pretence of her being engaged in reading, as she said in the morning, that she had sat up so late she could not rise to breakfast.

Satisfied with these excuses, because he suspected nothing else, Eusebius, on hearing my master was above, was coming up to pay his compliments to him, when he met him at the bottom of the stairs. 'I must give up arguing with one,' (said my master smiling, as he went forward into the parlour, whither he knew Eusebius would necessarily attend him) 'who sits up studying all night. She has turned me out on a pretence of dressing; but I know it is to go back to the book at which I caught her; so that I shall make but a poor figure in the evening if you don't help me out. However, I'll try! I am not ashamed to yield to her! but come! I called so early to beg your company at my house, where I have something that will please you to consult you upon. I shant keep you long, as I am obliged to go out before dinner.'

To this Eusebius readily assented; and my master putting his hand under his arm, led him away, proud of such familiarity with a person of his rank, as unsuspecting as a victim to the altar. As soon as he got home, he gave the necessary instructions to his trusty valet de chambre, and then returning to Eusebius, amused him with imaginary schemes of reformation and economy in his family, and improvements in his house till the return of his emissary let him know all was over. He then dismissed Eusebius with a smile of triumph, who went home, happy in his mind at the prudence and

and virtue of his conversation, the effects as he fondly imagined of his own care and example; the last time his mind ever knew happiness.

The moment he was gone, my master hasted after the deluded fugitive, whom he overtook just as she alighted at his house, the servants of which were too well accustomed to such things, to be surprized at the sight of a new face. The manner of their meeting may be easily conceived. On his side all was joy and triumph; on her's guilty confusion, shame and fear. However, repetition, though the highest aggravation of a crime, is yet less terrifying than the first commission; beside she had now gone too far to stop at any thing.

Three days he staid with her, every moment of which was imbittered to her by reflection, and seemed tedious to him from satiety and impatience to make his triumph known; and then left her on a pretence of business, with vows of immediate return; and going back to London, repaired directly to the tavern, where he had by letter appointed to meet all his associates, to whom he related the whole affair in such terms of exultation as raised their envy, not so much at his possession of her, as the glory of such a triumph.

I see your anxiety to know the fate of the unhappy Eusebius, and his more unhappy daughter. Though I saw them no more myself, I had too many opportunities of hearing their story, the sum of which is this. Eusebius, on his return home from my master, found a note from his daughter, bidding him farewell for ever, and desiring he would not take the trouble of making any enquiry after her, as she was unworthy of his care. The distraction evident in the style and purport of this note, too plainly shewed her ruin. This was an at-

tack his heart was not proof against. He sunk down instantly in a swoon, in which he escaped some hours of misery before he recovered his senses.

The first exertion of his reason was to make enquiry after his daughter, but no one could give him any information, her maid who conducted having accompanied her flight. He then flew to his friend, my master, for counsel and assistance; for the goodness of his own heart would neither let him suspect him, nor desert her in the ruin into which she had fallen; but he was told at his house, that a certain nobleman of his acquaintance had called upon him the moment he left him, and taken him into the country for a few days. Every enquiry he could make after his daughter was equally unsuccessful, till my master's exultation made the whole affair public. This, if possible, gave fresh poignancy to his grief. He did not however desert the wretched victim of such villainy, but wrote to her directly to return to him, and hide her shame from the world in his bosom; but despair made her reject his offer.

As for her, a few days, in which my master left her to the comfort of her own reflections, discovered to her that his love had been injurious to her health, as well as to her peace of mind. What she felt at this discovery may easily be conceived. She wrote to him in the agony of her soul, to reprehend such manifold baseness; but instead of an answer of excuse or consolation, received only a quack doctor's advertisement, and a bank note for a trifling sum, inclosed in a blank cover. The same post brought her her father's offer of forgiveness and reception. The contrast was more than she could bear. She hurried back to town, where despair prompting her to revenge her folly on herself by still deeper

deeper ruin; she plunged into all the horrors of a life of common prostitution.

This filled the measure of her father's woe. He had no redress to expect in this world; and therefore resigning the punishment of his wrongs to the great Avenger, indulged his grief in silence, till in a few months it brought his grey hairs to the grave.

CH A P. VII.

CHRYSAL'S master pays his court to a great person, who seems not much to relish his humour, and expresses some unfashionable sentiments concerning polite pleasures. In the course of a regular progression, CHRYSAL comes into the possession of a Beau's History of a Beau, with a journal of his manner of life for one day. CHRYSAL changes his service, in a common way, for that of a LADY OF FASHION.

THE next morning after my master's return to London, he went to pay his court to the Heir of the Crown, who was then at one of his country seats. Some public occasion had brought a concourse more than usual, in those retirements, to pay their duty to the Prince that morning. As my master was one of the last who came, as soon as his devoirs were ended, some of the company accidentally asked him what had kept him so late; on which, with an easy air of pleasantry he answered aloud, that he had been detained by a very whimsical affair: 'A certain nobleman' (said he) went into company last night, so immensely drunk, that having sat down to play, and lost five thousand pound, he quite forgot it this morning, and refused to pay the money,

money, till some person of honour, who was unconcerned in the matter, should vouch his having lost it fairly, on which it was referred to me, and sorry I am that I was qualified to give it against him.'

'How, my Lord! by being a person of honour!' (says the gentleman spoke to.)—

'No! (replied my master, with a significant smile) not so neither! but by being unconcerned in winning it.'—And then turning short to another, 'But have you heard the news, my Lord?' (said he) 'Mr ——— caught his wife yesterday, taking a serious walk in Kensington gardens, with the gentleman whom we all know he forbid her keeping company with, some time ago.'—

'A smile of general approbation encouraged him so much, that he concluded with saying, he wished he had himself been the happy delinquent so taken, as he doubted not but the gravest bishop on the bench would, were he to speak his mind honestly.'

'The Prince had heard him without interruption; but as soon as he had ended, turning to a nobleman who stood near him, There can be no greater insult' (said he, with a determined look, and solemn accent) 'to a person who is appointed to put the laws of a country in execution, than for any one to boast of a breach of those laws in his presence. For my part, if I am ever called by Providence to that station, it is my invariable resolution, that no man, how exalted soever in rank, who lives in open violation of any law, human or divine, shall ever hold employment under me, or receive countenance from me.'

'This rebuke damped my master's spirits, as it struck a reverential awe into all present. He hung down his head;

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head; and in a few minutes withdrew quite abash'd. But he soon recovered; and to silence the jests of his companions, and shew that he was not to be brow-beaten out of his own way, he made one with them to spend the evening at a brothel-tavern, where he gave me to a pimp, who gave me to a whore, who gave me to a bully, who gave me to a pawn-broker, who gave me to a beau.* Vol. 2.—*

My new master was one of those cyphers in nature, who seem born only to make up the number of mankind. The poor pittance, which pride of family spares from the eldest son to save the rest from starving, had been just enough to purchase him a commission in the guards, in which he signalized his prowess on the parade, and talked as big, and looked as bluff as the best, while his campaigns were confined to St James's Park. But the prospect of a war changed his note. The irregularities, and licentiousness of a military life now shocked his delicacy, and he exchanged for half-pay; and retaining only the convenient title of captain, resolved to push his fortune in the gentler way of matrimony.

For this purpose he directly commenced beau, as the fair sex is soonest caught by the eye, and when that is pleased, seldom enquire farther. Accordingly he now studied nothing but fashions, as all his care was to procure clothes to keep up to them, which the narrowness of his circumstances made so difficult for him to do, that his belly mourned many a time for the finery of his back. Nor was that his only difficulty. The very

* As this conclusion of the foregoing character is so short it is inserted to preserve the connection, and save the reader the trouble of referring.

expence

expence of going into company to display that finery was often as distressing to him as to procure it.

It was on an occasion of this kind, that I came into his possession. His shewy appearance, together with his being one whom every body knew, making him a convenient faggot to fill up those musters, the only end of which is to shew the consequence of the commanding officer, by the numbers she can crowd together, there was hardly a genteel route in town, to which he was not invited. Such a distinction was the height of his ambition; accordingly, having received a card to summon him to one the next evening, he was not able to resist the temptation of so favourable an opportunity of shewing himself to the ladies, though his finances were so low, that he had no other way to defray the expence of his chair, but by applying to such a place as this, where distress is preyed upon by profession, and really aggravated under the deceitful appearance of momentary relief; an expedient indeed to which he was well accustomed. As soon as it was dark, therefore, he came wrapped up in a horse-man's coat, and pulling a laeced waistcoat out of his bosom, mortgaged it for three guineas, one of which I was.

When this weighty transaction was concluded, he returned home, and changing his dress repaired to a coffee-house at the court-end of the town, where he talked over the news of the day with all the significant airs and importance of one in the secret, confirming every word he said with the authority of his cousin, this lord; or his friend, that duke; till he carelessly outstay'd all his engagements for supper, when a Welsh rabbit and three-penny worth of punch made him e-
mends

mends for the want of a dinner, and he went home satisfied.

Well as I was by this time acquainted with the inconsistencies of human life, I could not help being struck with the contradiction between the external appearance, and domestic œconomy of my new master. The former was in all the elegance of taste and affluence, while the latter was regulated by the strictest parsimony that nature could support. He lodged in an house, which opened into a genteel street, and had a back door into a blind alley, that served him whenever he chose to go out, or come in incog. Here one room up three pair of stairs (but the name of the street overbalanced that, and every other inconvenience) served him for every purpose of life, in most of which he ministered to himself, undisturbed by the company of any one but his hair-dresser, laundress, and taylor, at their appointed times. To all others he was constantly denied by the people of the house, who received all messages for him, and returned proper answers. But the manner of his life will be best described by the history of the one day I was in his possession, the business of every day being invariably the same.

As he had sat up late, it was near noon when he arose, by which genteel indulgence he saved coals, for his fire was never lighted till after he was up. He then sallied out to breakfast in the tarnish'd laced frock and his thick soled shoes, read the paper in the coffee-house, (too soon after breakfast to take any thing) and then walked a turn in the Park till it was time to dress for dinner, when he went home, and finding his stomach out of order from his last night's debauch, and his late breakfasting, he sent the maid of the house for a basin
of

of pea-soup from the cook's shop to settle it, by the time he had taken which, it was too late for him to think of going any where to dine, though he had several appointments with people of the first fashion. When this frugal meal was over, he set about the real business of the day. He took out and brushed his best clothes, set his shirt to the fire to air, put on his stockings and shoes, and then sitting down to his toilet, on which his washes, paints, tooth-powders, and lip-salves were all placed in order, had just finished his face, when his hair-dresser came, one hour under whose hands completed him a first rate beau.

When he had contemplated himself for some time with pride of heart, and practised his looks and gestures at the glass, a chair was called, which carried him to a scene of equal magnificence and confusion. From the brilliant appearance of the company, and the ease and self-complacency in all their looks, it should have seemed that there was not one poor or unhappy person among them. But the case of my master had convinced me what little faith is to be given to appearances, as I also found upon a nearer view, that many of the gayest there were in no better a condition than he.

Having reconnoitred one another sufficiently to lay in a fund for remarks, and bandied about the common cant of compliments, the company sat down to cards, when the looks of many of them soon underwent a change. For prudential reasons my master always declined engaging in parties of this nature, but this night all his address could not excuse him. A lady, whom he had dressed at for a considerable time, happening to come late unluckily wanted one, and seeing him idle

would take no apology. He complied therefore, with the best grace he could, and invoking fortune with more fervency than he had ever prayed to heaven, cut in; when, chancing to fall against her, her superior luck or skill, aided not a little by his anxiety, soon stripped him of every shilling in his pocket, and sent him home in a pensive mood, to study ways and means for raising another supply; and, on this occasion, I followed the smiles of fortune, and entered into the service of the winner.

CHAP. VIII.

History of CHRYSAL'S new mistress. She is brought into distress by her beauty, from which a lucky interview relieves her. The danger of arguing in favour of inclination against reason. Her friend puts her to school to learn manners, and afterwards marries her. His family shew impotent resentment, at which he is so enraged that he makes his will, by which he leaves her his whole fortune, and then dies. An uncommon instance of the good nature of the world.

THOUGH my late master had put the best face he could upon the matter, and excused his breaking up the party at the end of the first rubber, on a pretence of being taken suddenly sick, my mistress saw through him. 'Sick, indeed! (said she, laughing) hah! hah! hah! poor captain! I do not doubt but you are, and that at heart! I saw it coming upon you, ever since the first deal, when I held four by honours! but I don't wonder at it. A full rubber was too much.

Two guineas and an half are no trifle to some people!-----

Two or three other visits, which she had to pay that evening, prevented her making a new party, she only staid to tell the story of the captain's sickness to every one she knew in the room, who all joined in the laugh against him.

I see you are shocked at such an instance of insensibility; but if you will reflect a moment, you will find you have no reason. Though poverty is attended with many real evils, yet when the worst of them are voluntarily encountered to gratify vanity, the pity, otherwise due to it, is justly turned into contempt; and the efforts used to hide it, which are always seen through, treated with ridicule and insult.

The morning after I came into the possession of my new mistress, she brought to conclusion an affair of a most extraordinary nature, which few women beside herself would have had spirit even to undertake. To explain it properly to you, it will be necessary to give you a short sketch of her story.

The gifts of nature are either a blessing, or a curse, according to the use made of them. My mistress was born in one of the lowest classes of mankind; the obscurity of her birth though seemed to be made amends for, by the endowments of her person and mind, which were such as raised universal admiration, from their first infant dawn. But these, tempting the licentious spoiler, like the beauty of a flower growing in the highway, lost their advantage, and proved her ruin, for want of proper care.

She had scarce passed her childhood, when one of those female purveyors for vice, who go about like their
master,

master, seeking whom they may destroy, to the disgrace not only of their own sex, but also of human nature, marked her out as proper for her purpose. There was no difficulty, either in getting her into her power, or seducing her mind. The poverty of her parents made them glad to part with her, without fast her enquiry, to any one who promised to take care of her, only to be delivered from the expence of her support, as it had prevented their giving her the least education to form her manners, or inspire her mind with principles of virtue. Such a subject was exactly suited for so vile an agent to work upon. She took her home, dressed her up decently, and teaching her what account to give of herself, prostituted her, while she could make any profit of her, and then turned her adrift upon the world to live as well as she could, on the earning of sin and wretchedness.

I must not attempt to describe the life of a common prostitute! it is too horrible! she had run through the lowest scenes of it for some time, when fortune one night threw into her way one of those old debilitated debauchees, who indulge in the speculation after they are past the practice of vice. Something in her air and manner, as she picked him up, struck him. He took her to a tavern, where he was still more pleased with her uncommon smartness and vivacity. 'I am cloyed (said he, to himself) with the gross ignorance of the women of the town! I hate the impertinent airs of virtue, which those of better education give themselves! I'll therefore unite those qualifications, which separately please me in both, in this young creature, who can never offend me by pretences to virtue, at the same time

that the excellence of her understanding will receive, and reward me with the fruits of, the best education.'

There was novelty in the whim; and therefore he resolved to carry it into execution. He took her home with him, and sending for the most eminent masters in every part of polite education, put her under their care, and incited their application by most liberal promises of reward.

Young as she was, and hackneyed in every vicious habit, she had a sufficient sense of the change in her way of life, not to forfeit the advantage by any misbehaviour or neglect. On the contrary, she applied herself so closely to every thing taught her, and shewed a disposition so desirous of improvement in every sense, that her benefactor, proud of the discernment, which could discover such talents, under so great disadvantages, became enamoured of the effects of his own benevolence and care. 'I have at length found (would he say to himself) what I have hitherto sought in vain, a woman that can make me happy! Her wit and understanding will enliven the hour of heaviness; while a false parade of virtue will never throw a damp on pleasure and mirth. What though her birth is obscure! are we not all descended from one common stock? is the blood of a peasant less pure than that of a prince? -----If she has taken a false step in the weakness of her youth, that should be charged to fate that led her into temptation, before she had reason to resist it!-----But all these seeming disadvantages are now turned in her favour. Her experience in the ways of the world will make it impossible to deceive her again. Her consciousness of the meanness of her own family will give her a proper sense of the honour of being admitted into
mine;

mine; and save me from the intolerable plague of having her pedigree rung in my ears every hour. Her youth and luxuriance of constitution will also supply to our children the defects which too eager a pursuit of pleasure may have made in mine. Let those who are dependent on the world, regard its censure; I am above it, and will pursue my own happiness wherever it leads me.

There is nothing more dangerous, than seeking for arguments in favour of inclination against reason. Trifles, light as air, will be admitted as the weightiest proofs of that which is wished to be proved: and palliatives, barely possible, answer objections in their nature unanswerable. He had taken a liking to her! he had taken it into his head to secure the gratification of that liking, by marrying her: and a very little arguing with himself in this manner soon convinced him, not only of the expediency of such a marriage to his happiness: but also of the obligation he was under of doing that justice to her merit, and his own judgment. The consequence may be easily concluded. He married her, as he professed, in obedience to reason rather than to gratify inclination.

But the case was very different with the world, which, far from seeing the force of his arguments, laughed at him for being taken thus in a snare of his own making. His own family in particular beheld her with eyes perhaps not less blinded by interest, than his were by inclination; and depreciating the merit she really had, represented his marriage as the mere effect of vicious dotage.

Nothing is so ill judged as to shew impotent resentment. It only provokes a return of none effect; and

makes a wound incurable which otherwise might have healed of itself. Incensed that they should presume to censure actions, which they could not controul, he directly made his will, by which he gave away the inheritance of his ancestors from his own blood, leaving his whole fortune to his wife, as a testimony of his unaltered regard for her, and to shew his resentment to them; soon after which he died.

This was more than her most sanguine hopes could ever have risen to. She was in the prime of life; and possessed of a fortune to afford her all its pleasures. These advantages (and I should add her beauty, which was in the perfection of ripened bloom) naturally attracted a number of admirers of different kinds, and with as different views, who all thought themselves sure of her, from the circumstances of her past life. Needy adventurers (such as my late master) paid court to her fortune, in the matrimonial way; while her beauty attracted the more dangerous address of those, who meant no more than pleasure. But she was guarded against both. She had tasted something of the sweets of virtuous reputation, and knew the value of it too well to forfeit it entirely again by compliance with the latter; and her pride and experience set her above all the schemes of the former.

She lived thus for some time in the highest happiness, of which she had any idea; for she was a stranger to that false delicacy, which creates itself imaginary uneasinesses, and palls the enjoyment of present pleasures. She was admitted into good company, where her behaviour, if not absolutely approved of, was still received with good-natured allowances, as much better than might have been expected from the circumstances of her
her

her life; and she herself treated with tenderness, to encourage her to perseverance in so uncommon an amendment. But this happiness was too great to last long undisturbed.

CHAP. IX.

The common consequence of over-doing things. Her husband's relations find out a flaw in his will. The comfort of having good lawyers to keep up a client's spirits. For the advantage of having two strings to her bow, she enters into an engagement of marriage, under an heavy penalty. The event of her law-suit shews the prudence of this precaution. She is cast; her lover flies off, and she sues him for the penalty of his engagement. He begs the money among his friends, and then, by a nice finesse, plays her own game back upon her, and flings her off with half. CHRYSAL changes his service.

IT daily happens, that men defeat their own intentions, by carrying them too far. Hurried away by his passions, her husband, in making his will, had exceeded the power vested in him by the law, and so by striving to give her more than he had a right, really gave her much less. But it was a considerable time before his family recovered sufficiently from the astonishment and confusion with which such a stroke overwhelmed them, to perceive this, and be able to pursue proper measures for taking advantage of it.

The first notice my mistress received of this affair, was by an offer they made her to refer their claim to
private

private decision, in order to avoid the expence and trouble of a law-suit. But though the former part of her life had impressed her with horror at the very name of the law, she would not listen to such a proposal, without taking proper advice, the result of which may be easily judged.

Lawyers will never lose a good client for want of giving hopes. Her's persuaded her so fully of the justice of her cause, and gave her such positive assurance of success, that she resolved to spare no expence to obtain it. Though right and wrong are so essentially different from each other, they yet are sometimes involved in such intricacies, by the industry of those whose profession it is to distinguish between them, that it is difficult to know which is which. It was so in this case. They had raised such clouds, that reason could not see through them; and so every one was left to speak according to inclination.

While matters were in this situation, one of her admirers thought it a proper time to push his fortune with her. His rank and expectations in life raised him above the necessity of such a scheme; but avarice will stoop to any thing; and he would gladly have taken her, with all her faults, for the sake of her fortune, the certainty of her establishing her right to which he had taken care to be well assured of by sages learned in the law, before he laid siege to her. This however he was far from avowing. He pleaded the most disinterested love, and pressed for a return with all the ardency of desire.

But though she could not do so much injustice to her charms, as to doubt their power of inspiring such a passion, she positively refused to listen to any proposals of

of marriage, till her law-suit should be decided, from a generous fear of involving him in inconveniences, which her lawyers positively assured her could never happen; as he, with equal generosity, founded on the like assurances, offered to marry her, while it was still depending; whereas the truth of the matter was with both, that he thought he could make a better bargain, as she knew she must a worse, if it should be concluded till every thing was absolutely settled.

They had played this game upon each other for some time, when a diffident word dropped by one of her lawyers, as the day of decision drew near, determined her to change her system, and make sure of something for fear of the worst. Accordingly, the next time her lover visited her, on his repeating his professions of the violence of his passion, and offering as a proof of its disinterestedness to enter into a mutual engagement of marriage, as soon as the suit should be ended one way or other, under the penalty of a large sum of money on the refuser, she let herself be overcome by such an instance of sincerity, and taking him at his word, signed the engagement directly.

The event justified this caution; for after all the assurances of success, by which she had been led on by her lawyers to run into every expence they could devise, justice appeared so strongly in favour of her opponents, that she was cast; and a considerable part of the estate of her husband adjudged to return directly to his family, and the rest after her death.

Though what remained to her was more than sufficient to support her in the genteelest manner, she could not but feel at first a fall from so high hopes; but her spirit had been too well exercised in the beginning of
her

her life, to yield long to any thing; and she had almost got the better of it, when something that piqued her resentment, roused her effectually. Among all the friends, who came on this occasion to gratify the insolence of condoling her misfortune, she was not a little surpris'd never to see the face of her lover. As she could not be at a loss for the mean motive of such behaviour, she might possibly have treated it with the contempt it deserved, had not necessity urged her to shew a warmer resentment.

The expences of her law-suit had involved her in debts (for she never lowered her living, depending on the assurances given her of success) which were now demanded with an importunity that perplexed her. This was just at the time when she took notice of the desertion of her lover. The urgency of her creditors therefore suggested it to her, to call upon him to fulfil his engagement of marriage, which his conduct convinced her he would forfeit the penalty rather than do, by which means she should punish him for his rashness, and extricate herself from her difficulties at the same time; for had she thought that he would fulfil it, there was nothing she would not have suffered sooner than link her fate to him.

There is something in a woman's calling upon a man to marry her, so contrary to those notions of delicacy, on which the superior class of the female sex value themselves, that perhaps no other woman of her rank could have prevailed upon herself to do it. But she had not been born in, nor bred up with expectations of that rank; her notions therefore were of a coarser complexion; and though she had learned the external modes of behaviour, the trick of complaisance,

fance, she had been put to school too late in life, to change her sentiments so far as to make her think it necessary to sacrifice so powerful motives as resentment and interest, to a delicacy that appeared to her merely fantastic.

The moment, therefore, the thought occurred, she applied once more to her lawyer; and by his advice wrote a letter to her lawyer, in which she directly claimed the performance of his engagement. But as this was no more than his heart told him he must expect, (for he would have done the very same thing himself) he was prepared how to answer her. Accordingly he wrote to her in the most artful manner, excusing his not having been to wait upon her, since the fatal decision of her law-suit, on account of the pain he must feel at seeing her, when he had lost all hopes of ever calling her his; for as her generosity would not permit her to marry, while there was only a possibility of such a misfortune, he could not suppose, that her sense of honour and justice would now, when it had actually happened; and for this reason he desired that she should please to send him his engagement, not that it was of any consequence, as he would return her's, to whom he wished the highest happiness in every scene and view of life.--- Such a refusal was just what she wanted! she therefore instantly commenced a suit at law with him to recover the penalty of his engagement, which he had thus forfeited to her.

The care he had taken himself, to make the engagement as binding as possible, precluding every hope of defeating her claim; and his knowledge of her temper convincing him that it would be in vain to attempt prevailing on her to drop it, now she had once begun, he had

had recourse to an expedient to extricate him from this difficulty, of the same mean kind with that which brought it upon him. Accordingly, though he was well enough able to pay the penalty himself, as he did not chuse to fulfil his engagement by marrying, he put on a poor face, and went begging of all his relations for their assistance, pleading poverty and alledging the disgrace it would bring upon the whole family if he should be obliged to marry such a woman, whom he represented in the blackest colours, exaggerating every circumstance of her life. Though this might justly have been retorted upon himself, for ever thinking of her, they took pity on his distress, and raised the money for him, by a general contribution.

Such success encouraged him to hope for further, and try the force of his eloquence upon my mistress. For this purpose he desired an interview, which she had with much reluctance consented to give him, the next morning after I came into her possession.

I had seen vice and folly in a variety of shapes, but never did the human heart appear to me in so contemptible a light, as his upon this occasion. He began his attack with flattery, professing the highest respect, and lamenting in the most passionate terms, that the difficulty of his circumstances would not permit him to have the happiness of marrying her; and appealed to her generosity and justice, as before, for a release from an engagement, that it must be the ruin of them both to fulfil. But all was in vain. She scarce deigned to make him any answer; and that only to tell him, that his professions and arguments were equally ineffectual to alter a resolution, which the baseness of his behaviour alone had made her take. Not quite discouraged

though by such a repulse, he instantly changed his method of application. He threw himself at her feet, implored her compassion on his poverty, and offered, as the utmost it would permit him to do, to pay her down half the penalty directly, concluding with saying, that if she refused to accept of that, he had no other resource, but even to fulfil his engagement, and marry her.

This was fighting the devil at his own weapons. The mention of marriage was a stroke she was not prepared for. Startled at the thought, therefore, as she knew not what despair might drive him to, she agreed to his proposal, and so they divided the money between them (for he prudently pocketed the other half himself, as he could not think of offering such an affront to his friends as to return any part of their bounty) and were equal gainers by a bargain, in which each out-witted the other.

Though what my mistress got fell short of her expectation, it answered the double end of gratifying her resentment, and paying her debts, on the latter of which occasions, I left her service.

CHAP. X.

CHRYSAL makes some out-of-the-way remarks on matrimony. Description and history of his new master. CHRYSAL vindicates his using a common expression. His master's first rise from a beggar to a foot-boy. He gains his master's favour, of which he makes the use natural to be expected from his first education. Some account of a relation of his PRINCIPAL'S. The danger of giving advice. CHRYSAL'S master insinuates himself into the COLONEL'S liking, and undermines the Principal, in his regard.

I HAVE observed in the course of this account of my last mistress, that you have been shocked at the thought of a man's marrying a woman in her circumstances. To you, who view life only by the light of reason, it must certainly appear most unaccountable; but better acquaintance with the ways of the world would reconcile you to that, and many other things equally gross and shocking in speculation.

Marriage is a mutual trust of honour. A man's marrying a woman therefore who has lost her honour, is trusting his whole fortune to a bankrupt, who has no security to give for that trust; a fool-hardiness that must proceed from either a consciousness of having himself no honour to lose, a total disregard to the loss, or an affectation of acting on different principles from the rest of mankind, as a proof of being above their prejudices. Where her honour indeed has been lost to himself, justice makes it a duty upon him to repair her loss by

by marriage ; but then that very marriage is a punishment for his crime, as it must want the essential happiness of confidence ; for he will always be ready to suspect, that the disposition which betrayed her into error with him, may have the same effect with others. Nor is this suspicion unnatural.

I see you would argue from the habitual, avowed incontinence of man, that this trust of honour is not equal, and therefore cannot be obliging. But this is judging without duly considering the subject. Chastity is in its nature a virtue equally the duty of both sexes to observe, and with regard to society in general, the violation of it is equally criminal in both ; but in those nearer connections of life, the interest of which is the more immediate object of human attention, the consequences of that violation in woman are attended with so much greater inconveniences than in man, that in respect to them, the crime is obviously less pardonable in her, than in him ; and for this reason, this virtue of chastity is made in a peculiar manner the honour of woman ; while the honour of man is placed in other virtues, from which she receives as much advantage, as he does from her chastity ; and therefore the trust of honour is mutual and equal.—In distinguishing thus between honour and virtue, I speak according to the notions of mankind ; in their own nature, there is no distinction between them.

There was something in the whole appearance of the person to whom my mistress paid me away, that made me expect to see a character of a cast, which I had not yet met with among mankind. His looks were sly, methodical and plodding. Practice had fixed upon his passive face the hollow varnish of a scivile smile ; and

an over-acted affectation of polite behaviour, made his natural awkwardness truly ridiculous. But under all this, I could see a depth of design, and a latitude of principle equal to any great attempt, the success of which should in the opinion of the world determine the quality of that greatness, whether villainy or virtue.

The knowledge of his life, which is necessary to explain his character, and account for the principles upon which he acted consistently his manifold part, will be comprised in a few words. Sprung from the dregs of the people, and turned loose upon the world, to shift for himself, as soon as he was able to crawl, he took his stand about the house of a person in business, where he hardly earned a morsel of broken victuals by running of errands, cleaning shoes, and such other offices, as are performed by those servants of servants.

I see you wonder at my saying he was sprung from the dregs of the people, as if difference of rank could make any alteration in the essential equality of human nature; but without entering into a discussion of undetermined points, on both sides of which much has been said with equal strength of reason, the best observation of the power of early example to impress those principles, which are to govern the future life, will sufficiently justify my using the expression here.

The patience, with which he was obliged to bear the cuffs and kicks of those worst of tyrants, who always wantonly revenge ten-fold upon their wretched underlings, whatever they suffer themselves, taught him that hypocrisy and abject submission, to every thing that might any way serve his convenience, which afterwards proved the ground-work of his fortune; as the example of his parents, who got their living by retail-
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ing to the poor the meanest necessaries of life, initiated him so early into every species of low fraud and chicanery, that they became absolutely natural to him, and invariably ruled the conduct of his life.

He had been some time in this hopeful course of education, when an accident opened him an opportunity of shewing what a progress he had made in it. A brother of the person about whose house he picked up the scraps that kept him alive, happening to see one of the servants beating him unmercifully, interfered from mere humanity, and saved him. The marks he bore of his beating raised a curiosity to know how he had deserved it; when he gave so seemingly innocent, and pitiable an account of himself, and attributing the servants cruelty so artfully to his having refused to do something for him, which was improper for him to do, that the young gentleman believed him; and taking compassion on his distress, admitted him into the family to wait upon himself, by which he was delivered from his dependence on the other servants, and protected from their future insults.

The humility, with which he behaved himself, in this first step of his advancement, his assiduity, and seeming attachment to his master, soon won his good opinion so far, that he dispensed with his attendance, and sent him to school, where he applied himself so closely, and made such a proficiency, that his master took him into his own business; in which his sobriety, diligence, and obedient temper gained his confidence so entirely, that as soon as ever he thought him capable, he admitted him into fellowship with himself, and absolutely resigned the management of his whole business to him.

It may naturally be supposed, that he did not neglect to improve such an opportunity of practising the lessons he had learned in his youth. He secreted the profits of all the business, which his principal was not indispensibly obliged to be personally engaged in; he supplanted him with such as he could of his customers; he cheated of considerable sums of money such others, as long experience of his (the Principal's) honesty had put off their guard with him; and took every occasion of insinuating to the world, under the most effectual disguise of friendly concern, and complaint, his negligence and incapacity; at the same time, that he professed to himself the most implicit respect and obedience, and seemed ambitious of shewing his gratitude and attachment by performing the same servile offices, which had been his first occupation about him.

But all this was trifling in comparison with the stroke he made against him, in his own family. There was a near relation of his principal's, who was indebted to his friendly assistance, for the first step of his rise to the rank of a colonel in the army. Nature had been lavish to him, in the endowments of mind and body; but pride marred the blessing, and turned them all to his disadvantage. Confidence in the external graces of his person made him neglect the improvement of his understanding, while an affectation of singularity, which is always assumed as a mask to hide real ignorance, made him set his own opinion in opposition to the established judgment of mankind.

As the conduct of such a man must necessarily be irregular, his relation and friend, my master's principal, exerted the authority of those characters, and frequently reproved him in the sincerity and well-meaning of his

his heart. The notion that this liberty, which when properly taken is the highest proof of regard, was assumed on the score of obligation, gave offence to the captious haughtiness of the colonel's temper, and estranged an esteem, which it ought to have confirmed.

This was an opportunity for my master to display his talents. He studied the temper of the colonel, and paid court to his caprices. He cringed to his haughtiness, bore his insults, and ministered to his vices, with an implicit submission to his superior sense and judgment, which he received as the only standard of right and wrong.

The contrast between this complaisance, and the superiority which the colonel thought his relation assumed by giving him advice, insensibly transferred to my master that regard, which his principal lost. As this was what he had all along aimed at, he omitted nothing to widen the breach by insinuations, so artfully conveyed as to aggravate the offence taken by the colonel, and yet if repeated would bear a sense directly opposite, and seem to spring entirely from friendly concern, should a reconciliation between them bring his practices to light. But an event, that he could not scheme for, removed every such apprehension, and rivitted his influence beyond his most sanguine hopes.

CHAP. XI.

Further account of the COLONEL. CHRYSAL's master, in conjunction with a female associate proper for his purpose, completes his scheme of alienating the COLONEL's regard from his family, of which he gives a proof of a most extraordinary nature. A remarkable instance of CHRYSAL's master's talents for a particular kind of wit, with a striking account of the worthy manner in which he and his fair associate acquitted themselves of the trust reposed in them by the COLONEL.

VAIN of the beauty of his person, the colonel prided himself in an opinion, that there was no woman whose virtue could resist his addresses. This self-conceit, which the frailty of the lower class of females had first given rise to, was confirmed by his success with one, whose fortune and education should have secured her against his attacks. The glory of such a conquest satisfied his vanity; and the pleasure of having her on his own terms so endeared her to him, that he thought not of any other. One thing only gave him concern about her; which was, in whose care he should leave her, when the business of the campaign called him into the field.

But in this he was not long at a loss. The humble implicit attachment of my master, pointed him out as the person, in every respect most proper for such a trust. To him, therefore, he committed her at his departure, hugging himself in the happiness of having such a mistress, and such a friend.

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The nature of this trust necessarily brought on an intimacy between my master and his charge. Intimacies between the sexes are dangerous in any circumstances; but in their's, where she could not even make pretence to that virtue which could be her only guard, the consequence is obvious. From this time, they joined their interests, and laid their heads together to estrange him from his own family, particularly my master's Principal, who in case of death had the first claim, from law and nature, to his fortune.

In carrying on this scheme, they played into each other's hands with such address at his return, that when he was going to the next campaign, he made a will, by which he gave not only his own large acquisitions, but also the inheritance of his ancestors between them, in such a manner as plainly shewed a wrong mind, and supported his bequest with such reasons, as were an insult to the laws and religion of his country; at the same time, that they perpetuated the infamy of those to whom it was made, by arguing expressly in favour of the vices, which had gained them this mark of regard; and this will, the substance of which satisfied them for the circumstances, he left in the hands of my master.

In this situation matters stood between the three, when I came into his possession. When he had finished the drudgery of the day, he went as usual to spend the evening agreeably with his charge.

There was one species of what is called wit, upon his expertness in which my master valued himself not a little. This was telling a fictitious story with so grave a face, and corroborating it with such plausible circumstances as to raise the hearer's anxiety, and then to
laugh

laugh at the easy faith that could be so taken in. Low as the merit of such wit was, at the best, in him it had none at all. His fictions were no better than downright lies, destitute of imagination, or humour, and corroborated with nothing but new-coined oaths and imprecations, fit to afford entertainment only to the damned.

With an essay of this kind he resolved to entertain his mistress this evening. Exerting therefore all his command of countenance, 'My dearest love, (said he with a melancholy look, and deep-drawn sigh, as he entered the room) I have received bad news, blast my eyes! there has been a battle, in which our fool'—

'Has not been killed! (interrupted she, snatching the word out of his mouth,) that is bad news indeed; but another battle may afford better.'—

I see you were struck with horror at my repeating the imprecation he made use of on this occasion: Instead therefore of intermixing them with every period of his discourse, as he always does, I will in their place make a pause thus—, which will serve as well, for he uses them in general, as no more than mere expletives.

'No! (answered he, shrugging up his shoulders,) that chance is lost for ever——. He has received a wound——, which without endangering his life, has disabled him from further service, so that we shall be blest with his company——, for the rest of our lives.'

'Cursed, you should say! But is there no way to be thought of, to prevent it? Could not proper application be made to the surgeons?'

'All is too late! his leg was taken off directly——; and the danger entirely over when the account came away; as you may see by his letter, in which he writes

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me word——, that he hopes to be at home with us, in a month, to leave us no more. Eh! what have I done with his letter?——It should be in this pocket! I certainly have left it behind me, in my confusion——But you'll see it soon enough. He sends his love to you; and bids me tell you, he would have wrote to you, but was prevented by company, so that you see he cannot be in any danger——. But he'll make you amends. I see how every thing will be——. He'll marry you, as soon as he returns——; that he may introduce you into his family, who will treat you with forced civility in order to get him into their hands again. I see very well——how every thing will happen.'

'No! that shall never happen! I hate themselves, and despise their civility. I had rather bear the sneers and insults of the world than that. Nor will I marry him, let what will be my fate! his insolent capricious humour is scarce to be borne now; though he curbs it, because I am at my liberty to leave him. What would it then be, were I to be his slave for life? I had rather seign penitence, and throw myself on the compassion of my own family, than plunge into such misery. Marriage on any terms is a state I despise, but with him I abjure it.

This passion was such a triumph to my master, that he could keep his countenance no longer. 'Hah! hah! hah! a fair humbug, damn me! (said he, bursting out into a horse-laugh) your humble servant, madam! I thought you could not be taken in. Hah! hah! hah! a fair humbug, damn me.'

'Taken in! (said she, vexed at being played upon, but more pleased that it was no worse) how can you take delight in such a low-lived trick? If I could not
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shew my wit, in a better manner, I am sure I would give up all pretensions to it.'

'All pure spight and malice? But don't fret for it. Come, we'll kiss and friends, and think no more of the matter! only remember not to brag another time that you cannot be taken in though! hah! hah! hah!

Every thing being thus made up, their conversation for the rest of the evening was such as may be supposed between persons of their cast, and in their situation. They gloried in the success of their schemes upon their common dupe, the colonel; they formed plans for spending his fortune, should any lucky accident put an end to his life; they ridiculed the pride and self-sufficiency of which they had taken advantage; and concluded in their usual way, with proving in each other's arms the justness of his confidence in their fidelity.

CHAP. XII.

CHRYSALE's master receives an account of the death of the Colonel. He finds, after much deliberation, that he cannot fling his worthy associate out of the whole spoil, and therefore prudently resolves to share it with her by a marriage, of which he draws a comfortable picture. He urges his suit, and she strives to evade it by arguments consistent with both their characters. He carries his point in a particular manner.

BUT all this harmony was soon disturbed for ever, by the accomplishment of the very schemes it was founded on, which was much nearer than they imagined.

gined: The first news my master received on his return home the next morning, was that the colonel had been killed in a late battle. This was an interesting event! he directly locked himself up in his closet, and taking out the will though he had often read it before, studied every syllable of it over and over, to try if there was any possibility for him to sing his own and the colonel's common mistress, and get the whole fortune himself; but he had the mortification to find that this exceeded all his sagacity, and that the whole will must stand or fall together.

After some, not the most pleasing meditation, therefore, 'And so! (said he, biting his nether lip, and turning up his eyes, with an execration, too horrid to be repeated) I have been labouring all this while to get a fortune for this brimstone! A very pretty reward truly, for supplanting my best benefactor! it were better for me, that even he had it, than she; for then I might not only enjoy my share of it as it goes, along with him; but also very probably cheat him out of the most of it, in the end. What though I am to have it after her death! may not she live as long as I? Beside, I have made away with the greatest part of the money, and so am liable to be blown up and undone, whenever she thinks proper to call it in; for I know too much of her to expect that she should shew favour to any one, when once in her power. No! that shall never be! I have it in my power to set aside the whole unnatural, nonsensical will, and I will do it, if she refuses to come into terms with me. Such a sacrifice of my own interest to gratitude and honesty, as this will appear, will gain me so great reputation, that I shall make a better fortune myself, in a little time; and as to what I have

embzzled,

embezzled, I know by experience, that I can sink that upon my wife principal at a proper time, as I have done more before now; so that after all, I may find honesty to be the best policy, as the saying is. Well! be that as it will, I am resolved to be honest to myself first, and do that which shall serve my own interest best, without regard to proverb or opinion. Let me consider then! suppose I marry her; and so get possession of all at once. But the devil of it is, that I must take her into the bargain; and I know her too well for that, if I could help it. She may most likely serve me the same trick, with some body else, that she has served this fool with me; once a whore and always a whore. However, I must take my chance for that. Cunning as she is, she shall not cuckold me easily. If I am not a match for her, she must be able to outwit the devil himself; so happy come lucky, I'll e'en venture.'

Having reasoned himself into this prudent resolution, he would lose no time; but went to her directly to carry it into execution. As soon as he met her, 'I have brought you news now (said he) in earnest. News, that will be either good or bad, according as you take it.'

'Psha! (answered she slightly) this is more of your wit, I suppose. But for heaven's sake leave off making a fool of yourself, and teasing me. I am quite sick of such stuff.'

'Strike me to the centre; (replied he passionately) but I am serious. I have this moment received an account, that the colonel is actually dead. He was killed in the late battle.'

The look with which he said this, had more weight with her than all the oaths and imprecations he could utter;

utter; for much as he was master of his countenance, he could not conceal the agitation of his mind. 'Dead! (interrupted she, eagerly) thank heaven! then all my fears are over.'

'Aye! (replied he dryly) but it is well if your hopes are not also over with them.'

'How? What do you mean? Has he not made a will, by which all his fortune comes directly to me? For heaven's sake do not torture me in this manner.'

'Yes! he has made a will, it is true. But don't you know that the last letter I received from him revoked it, so that every thing goes now to his family, for he lived not long enough to make another after he received his wound; though that is no great loss to you, for from what he said when he was dying, it would not have been much in your favour.'

'But did not you promise me, that you would suppress that revocation, in case any thing of this kind should happen; which you said you had it in your power to do, as your principal was fool enough to promise you, that he would never open any letters that should come directed to you from the army, as he had a right to do, by which means it had luckily escaped coming to his knowledge.'

'Perhaps I may have said so! but do you think I have no more conscience, than to conceal such a thing, and rob a man to whom I am under so great obligations?'

'Conscience! For heaven's sake, I conjure you again, do not torture me any longer. Speak of conscience to those who do not know you. I have had sufficient proof, that your interest is your conscience; and this will surely determine you to serve me, as you

serve yourself at the same time. Is not all to come to you at my death?

‘But what am I to do in the mean while? Come then! as you say you know me so well, I’ll offer you a fair proposal, that shall make it my present interest (for that is what I regard) to serve you; and your future interest, on which you lay so great a stress, to serve me. Suppose, we join our interests in all things, and marry. By this expedient I shall come directly into the enjoyment of the fortune; and your children will inherit it.’

‘Marry!’ (exclaimed she, starting in surprise) what could put such a strange thought into your head, who know my sentiments on that unnatural state of superstition and slavery? No! that of all things, I can never come into. But, I see you are at your humbugging again. The professions, and oaths of friendship, you have so often made me.—Were all but wind, (answered he) and have left no trace behind them. But this kind of talking answers no end. The whole depends on the one word, by which you answer me this short question, Will you marry me? Or will you not? If you consent, I will secrete the papers, that set aside the will, and so we shall share the fortune between us. If you refuse, I will give them up to his family, who will directly defeat your claim, and then you may follow for your living that libertine way of life you appear so fond of; for I have no notion of damning my character in this world, and my soul in the next, to serve any other but myself. Consider therefore before you speak, as I will go directly from you to them if you refuse me.’

Such a menace was not ineffectual to one who knew him

him so well. 'Will nothing else satisfy you?' (replied she, bursting into tears) 'No part of the fortune; and to continue as we are at present, man and wife in every thing but the cursed ceremony.'

'No! that ceremony is the very thing I want, and nothing else; because that only can give me a right to your fortune; for as to your person, I would not have you think I set any value on that! I have long since had enough of it: and for sharing the fortune, I am resolved I will have all, or none; and this is the reason, why I make you such an offer; for otherwise, I assure you, I hate marriage as much as you possibly can. So let me have your answer directly, for I will not trifle thus a moment longer.'

The manner in which he said this left her no room to doubt his resolution. 'Well then, (replied she, sighing) 'if you will have it so, it must be so; and I consent, because I cannot help it. But when is this blessed marriage to be solemnized?'

'As for that, I am in no more hurry than you. All I desire is, that you will directly sign a promise of marriage, whenever I think proper to call upon you. I'll go this instant, and draw it up; and leave you to consider how much better this is for us both than to have disagreed, and let all go to his family.'

He waited not for a reply; nor was long before he returned with the deed, which she signed with evident reluctance.

C H A P. XIII.

Account of the methods which CHRYSAL's master took to obviate the effects of his Principal's resentment, with the characteristic conversation that passed between them, on the former's avowing the Colonel's will. CHRYSAL's master overshoots his mark, and provokes his Principal to do more than he ever intended. An uncommon instance of the justice of the world. CHRYSAL's master obliges the lady to court him in her turn, and at length marries her. The consequence of such a marriage, and fruits of the success of all their schemes.

THIS point being settled, the next thing was to produce the colonel's will, the thought of doing which gave him some alarm in spite of all his fortitude, as it would be throwing off the mask he had worn all his life, and declaring war with his Principal, who he judged from himself, would not fail to publish to the world the meanness of his original, and the misery from which his compassion had raised him.

But such thoughts, disagreeable as they might be, could not divert him from his purpose. To disable his Principal though as far as possible from carrying his resentment any further than words, he ransacked all his papers, and took away not only such as related immediately to the private transactions, between themselves, but also those of other people with whom they had been concerned in business, in order to distress his circumstances, and involve him in such perplexities as should lay

lay him under a necessity of keeping fair with him. But this precaution, like many others dictated by the same spirit, occasioned the very thing it was designed to prevent.

The first news of the affair was like a thunder-clap to the family of the colonel. My master's Principal, though, who in the course of law and nature, had the first expectations, as I have said before, could not believe it to be true, so high was his confidence in the honesty and attachment of my master. To satisfy however the importunities of his family, he came to him, and with a look of indignation at the baseness of such a report, rather than apprehension of the truth of it, 'I am come (said he) to tell you a piece of news, I have just this moment heard, which is, that the colonel has left his whole fortune between that jade, his mistress, and you; and that you were privy to his will, which he left in your hands when he was going abroad. But the latter part of the story makes me easy about the rest; for whatever his capricious temper might lead him to do, I am convinced you would have no hand in so base an affair, nor even conceal his having such an intention from me a moment. I see you are shocked at the scandalous imputation; but do not think I mention it, as if I believed it. I could not do you so much wrong.'

The first impressions of youth can never be totally effaced. Though my master could lay schemes to cheat the Principal, and revile him behind his back, he had learned to look at him with an awe, when a beggar about his brother's house, and afterwards his servant, that he could never after get over when in his presence. This awe added to the confusion of consci-
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ous guilt, made him unable to make any answer for some moments, and had wrought that change in his countenance which the other took notice of.

As soon as he could collect spirits to speak, 'I--I--I am obliged to every one, f--f--for their good opinion of me;' (said he, with his eyes fixed on the ground, and faltering on at every word) 'and hope I shall not f--f--f--forfeit it, by accepting the favours of my friends.'

'How! (interrupted the other eagerly) what can you mean by that? You surely do not, cannot avow!'

'As for that, Sir! (returned my master, plucking up a little more assurance) what I avow or disavow, is nothing to the purpose. I presume that my most dear and worthy friend, the colonel, had a right to leave his fortune to whom he pleased; and that whoever he has left it to has also a right to take it, without being answerable to your opinion, or that of any others who may be prejudiced by you; for the world will judge better, and be satisfied that he had sufficient reasons for what he has done.'

'And so then, it is even so?' (replied the other, after a long pause) 'and this is the return I meet for raising you from wretchedness, and admitting you to the first place in the esteem and confidence of my heart. Cherish a viper in your bosom, and he will sting you to death. But it is beneath me to upbraid you! I leave the revenge of my wrongs to your own conscience, and the justice of heaven; and from this moment disclaim all intercourse with you; nor shall my lips ever more utter your name if I can help it. The sight of you is a pain to me! I will send a person to take my affairs out.

out of your hands, and desire you will directly provide yourself another habitation ! Unhappy for me was the day, when I first gave shelter to your misery in mine. --Saying this he turned away without waiting for a reply, and left the room.

This insolent behaviour (for so my master called it, as soon as the other was gone) was such an affront to his honour, as in his opinion cancelled all obligations, and justified every thing he had done, or could do against him. Giving vent to his resentment therefore in a burst of blasphemous execrations, he proceeded in the execution of his schemes, with this improvement, that to obviate the imputations of base dishonesty and ingratitude, which his own conscience told him his Principal would publish to the world against him, he loaded him with every scandal that his inventive malice could suggest. But instead of answering his purpose, produced the very contrary effect, as it put him under a necessity of laying open things to vindicate his own character, which indignant shame of having placed his confidence so unworthily would otherwise have made him conceal ; and in this instance the world was not dazzled by success, but directly paid his villainy with the infamy it deserved.

As for the lady, fashion made it necessary for her to put on all the mimicry of woe, in which she persisted most decently for the usual time ; at the end of which she found her husband, that was to be, so slack in his addresses, that she was obliged to court him, as such an unsettled life was equally contrary to her interest and inclinations. This answered a double end. It gratified his vanity, (for he took care to make it known) and seemed to obviate the credit of the contract between them,

them, should it ever happen to be discovered. Accordingly he kept off a little longer; and at length consented with the affected irresolution of a man of the most delicate principles and sense of honour.

As he only got a legal right by his marriage to what he was already in possession of, he soon grew tired of the state, the circumstances of which, in his particular case, could not be very pleasing to any man. However, to avoid the evils of which he was most immediately afraid, he went to live in the country, where he admitted his wife to see nobody but those he approved, and in company with himself. Nor was he satisfied that his utmost vigilance could prove effectual, as he had had experience of the looseness of her principles, and her expertness in all the arts of intrigue.

Their situation, in these circumstances, may be easily conceived. Continual suspicions, quarrels, and recriminations aggravated their mutual dislike to the most rancorous hatred, and made their lives such a scene of misery, that they themselves looked upon it as a commencement of heaven's vengeance on their crimes; while all who knew them expected in horror, that they would make that vengeance still more signally dreadful, by wreaking their hatred upon each other's lives, or their despair upon their own.

All the advantages, thus dearly earned, were an affluence disgusting for want of power of enjoyment, except in an external pomp that only mocked the misery within, and made the meanness it was designed to hide the more remarkable.

CHAP. XIV.

CHRYSAL's master designs to set up a coach; but wants a material article toward making a proper figure with it. He consults with an HERALD; who gives him an elaborate dissertation, not the most pleasing to him, on COATS OF ARMS, and the modern methods of making them, in which he unfolds many curious mysteries, and undertakes at last, on proper encouragement, to make him a gentleman. CHRYSAL changes his service. Conversation between his new master and an ANTIQUARIAN. Curious arguments, by which he proves the genuineness and importance of certain relics of antiquity. CHRYSAL changes his service.

IN this age of delicacy and refinement the first thing thought of in genteel life is a carriage, which is so indispensibly necessary to procure respect, that no eminence in science, no practice of virtue is held in esteem, where it is wanted. Sensible of this, my master resolved to bespeak one, the elegance and grandeur of which should prove his taste and magnificent spirit. One difficulty though perplexed him not a little in the design. This was his want of a coat of arms to decorate the outside of it, and display to the world his illustrious descent.

After much fruitless meditation on so important a subject, it occurred to him, that an herald must be the proper person to consult with upon the best means of remedying this defect. Accordingly, he enquired for the most eminent in that way, and on the morning fixed

fixed for his attendance, prepared to receive him in such a manner as he imagined could not fail to inspire him with respect. He was lolling at breakfast in an elbow-chair; dressed in a morning-gown of green damask, with a red cap on his head, the cambric lining of which was edged with a rich lace, that turned up over it, and crimson velvet slippers on his feet, one of which was extended on a cushion of the same materials, to give him the appearance of the gout, a disorder which he looked upon as an incontestible proof of his being sprung from a good family, while his lady poured out his tea, and between every dish read a paragraph in a news-paper to entertain him.

As soon as the herald was shewn in, my master cast an eye upon his lady, and nodding majestically toward the door, she withdrew, and left him to his business. After the usual questions about the weather, and the news, my master at length entered upon the subject. 'I understand S--S--S-- Sir, (said he faltering, and almost blushing in spite of his assurance) that you have great skill in heraldry; and therefore desired to see you to consult about my c--c--c--coat of arms.'

'I do presume Sir, (answered the herald with an air of importance) to have some knowledge in that mysterious and sublime science, and hope I shall not wrong the character you have received of me, in any thing in which you are pleased to employ me. Hem! ahem! Pray Sir, what may be the nature of your present commands? I suppose you want to introduce into your own coat, the bearing of some branch of your family, which is fallen to you. There is nothing in the world easier to be done, that is by one, who, as I said before, understands the science. It is only dividing the field properly,

properly, and taking care that the blazoning of the different quarterings, of which all good families gain many in a long course of descents, may not be wrongly blended, as colour upon colour, or metal upon metal, which you must know is false heraldry; though I beg pardon, your blazoning is most likely in precious stones, the peculiar emblems of nobility with us. But that makes no difference, as I will convince you, if you please to let me see your arms.'

'Sir, (replied my master, still more confounded by this jargon) that is not what I want. I would have an entire n--n--new coat.'---

'O! I understand you, Sir! you are the first of your family; and want to make arms for yourself, as none of your ancestors have left you any! Why Sir, that too may be done; but it must be with judgment and care, as I said before, for fear of interfering with the arms of any other family. But you may trust me for that, Sir! half the arms you see cut such a figure about the town are of my devising. The king may make lords and knights of whom he pleases, but it is the herald must make them gentlemen; for what is any man without a coat of arms? Pray, Sir, what is your name? And of what profession was your father!'

'Wh--wh--why do you ask, Sir? I suppose there cannot be any thing material to your purpose in them?'

'Pardon me, good Sir, they are material, very material. A name, especially if it consists of many syllables, often gives an excellent hint; for much as your modern wits may affect to despise the mysterious learning of Rebus's, wiser antiquity held it in high repute, as you must have observed from the many illustrious

coats of arms taken entirely from the name: and then knowledge of the profession of a gentleman's father is absolutely necessary for many reasons. There are professions the implements of which are never drop'd, because the professions themselves are reckoned honourable; as there also are others, nothing relating to which is ever borne, for the contrary reason. The son of a general, or an admiral, for instance, will have his arms charged with implements of war; but the son of a man who kept a chandler's shop, will never bear a lump of butter, or a bunch of candles; nor the son of a taylor, a pair of scissars or a thimble; for these would at once betray what is designed to be hid; and therefore it is absolutely necessary that I should be informed of these particulars.'-----

'B--b--b--but Sir, can you not strike out something entirely new, without alluding to any name, or profession at all? I am willing to pay you well for your trouble, only let me have something elegant and grand.'

'I understand you, Sir. I'll engage to please you. I'll quarter you the coat of a crown'd head in an instant, without any body's being able to say a word against it. Leave it to me, and I'll engage to please you; not the richest contractor or Nabob of them all shall make such a figure.'-----

'And pray, Sir, what is your price, for a job of this kind?'--'Price, Sir, I never make bargains! let common mechanics do that! Gentlemen always make me a present when they bespeak their honours; and according to the value of that, my invention is either high or low.'

'Well, Sir, it shan't sink on that account now. Here

Here are ten guineas for you, as an earnest of what I will give, if I like your work, when it is done.'

'Sir! you may depend on having the highest arms of any man in the kingdom. Your generosity shews that you ought to be a gentleman; and it shall be my fault if I don't make you one, in the sight of the world.'-----Saying this, he took his leave, when I was heartily glad to go with him, being part of the price paid upon this occasion for the making of a gentleman.

As soon as my new master went home, he retired to his closet, and taking out the money he had just received, 'Hah! hah! hah! no bad price for a little daubing! (said he laughing, and chinking the purse.) I wonder the fellow could be such an ass as to think that any thing in my power to do could make him pass for a gentleman! But let him have his way! his folly is my gain; and it is no more than justice, that one who has cheated the world so long, should cheat himself at last, and sacrifice the earnings of villainy to vanity! But hold! this is about the time my Antiquarian was to come. Let me see those ancient manuscripts, and inscriptions which I had done last week! upon my life, they look very well. The casker upon this copper, and the smoke upon this parchment, are as natural as they were the work of a thousand years; and these scrawls might pass even for the spells of the witch of Endor, they have so little likeness to any marks made to convey thought, at this time. He is a very pretty fellow that did them, and deserves encouragement.'

Just as he said this, the person he expected came, and entering without ceremony upon his business, 'I called upon you, Sir, (said he) to see those things you men-

tioned to me. If they are really what you describe, we shall not differ about the price, high as it is.'

'I hope, Sir, (answered my master) you have not so mean an opinion of my judgment, as to imagine I could ever think of imposing upon you. No, Sir! I know that to be impossible; even if I could be base enough to attempt it; and therefore would not mention any thing to you, that could admit of the least doubt to a person of your profound learning. As to the price, I could have had much more since I saw you; but I thought it but justice to their merit to offer them first to you, as there is no other collection in the kingdom worthy of them; and I am above rising in a demand I have once made, though infinitely short of their intrinsic value, as you will be convinced the moment you see them. Here, Sir, is the manuscript, which I had the good fortune to meet with as I was rummaging among some old records in our office, that had never been stirred since the reign of Henry the Eighth. The paper in which it was wrapped was so decayed, that it mouldered quite away so immediately upon its coming into the open air, that I had scarce time to read the contents, which were, that this parchment had been found in the tomb of Thomas a Becket, upon breaking up of his shrine at the Reformation, and was laid up there, on account of its antiquity. That it must have been very ancient, even before his time, the colour and decay of the parchment would sufficiently prove, were there not other proofs still more convincing to such as have judgment to comprehend them. The shape of the letter shews its age. This manner of writing, as appears by comparing it with other ancient manuscripts, was introduced in the beginning

beginning of the second century of the Christian Æra, and quite dropped by the middle of the third. Within that period therefore it must have been written. Its antiquity being thus fixed, the purport of it is next to be considered; and of that and its importance, there can be no just room to doubt. This spot at the bottom of the parchment, though so much defaced by time, bears a strong resemblance to the impression of a mitre, and thereby proves that some bishop was the author of what was written over it, into which these four letters, M--A--T--H, fortunately so very plain, give the clearest light; for as they must have been part of the word ARIMATHÆA, they prove that the opinion of Joseph of Arimathæa's having first preached the Gospel in Britain, was known so early as in the second century, and so decide that long contested point; as, who can be such an Infidel as to doubt a thing given thus, as I may say, under the sacred seal of the mitre, and that so very near the time.'

'Very true! but is it not as probable, that the design of this writing was to refute that opinion, as to confirm it?'

'My good Sir, if you allow weight to such trivial objections as this, you give up all the knowledge of an Antiquarian, which never amounts higher than to possible conjecture, without regard to probability even against him; for conjectures, such as this, founded on effaced remains of antiquity, are of much greater weight in the learned world, because they shew more learning than the plainest conclusions drawn from evident and complete records, as these are obvious to any common person. But why do I mention these things

to you, who understand them so much better than I pretend to do.²

“ I believe I do, Sir, know something of those matters; and was satisfied both of its antiquity, and importance, at the first glance of my eye; though I started that objection for mere amusement. But where is the fragment? I should be glad to see that also.²

“ Here it is, Sir; (answered my master, taking a bit of broken copper out of a box, in which it was carefully wrapped up in cotton) this plate of copper was torn in the manner you see, from the head of a sepulchral monument on the top of mount Libanus, by a person who had been sent thither, by a celebrated Society, on purpose to seek for such things; and at his return made me a present of it, as the most valuable acquisition he had made, out of gratitude for my having helped him to the job. Observe this canker, Sir! much as it has been rubbed off in the carriage; the depth and colour of it shew, that it must have been some thousands of years in gathering. What the occasion of setting it up was, some particular circumstances direct to a conjecture sufficiently probable. You see this hole, which the canker has eaten almost through the copper, with this stroke turning up over it. This certainly is the remains of the figure of a lion, as is plain from these two tufts in the middle, and at the end of the stroke, which must have been the tail of it. Now as the lion was the emblem of Judah, it cannot be doubted but some great personage of that tribe must have been buried where this emblem was set up; a circumstance, that so clearly proves the antiquity of coats of arms, that I do not know how to think of parting with it, it affords such

an illustration to a treatise I am at this time engaged in writing, on that sublime and difficult subject.'

'Not part with it! (replied the Antiquarian, returning it carefully into the box, and then cramming the box into his bosom) you must get it first, my good friend, to part with it. Hah! hah! hah! a very pretty jest truly! you offer a thing to sale, and set a price upon it, and then you cannot part with it! a very pretty jest truly! Here is your money, both for the manuscript, and the fragment; and when you meet with any other such precious remains of antiquity, I shall be obliged to you to let me have the preference, No body will give you a better price.'

Saying this, he reached my master a bank-note, which he took with an air of dissatisfaction; and while he was telling out change, 'You do as you please with me, Sir, (said he) this time; but the next, I shall be more upon my guard. I am glad however, that it goes into so noble a collection as yours, where it will have justice done to its merit.'

'Aye, Sir! (answered the Antiquarian, with a smile of self-complacency) I have been at some pains and expence too, to make a collection; and have the satisfaction to think, that whenever I die, it will make as good a figure in a sale catalogue as that of most of my contemporaries. I shall leave proofs behind me, that I have not spent my life in vain. What would I not give to hear the character which an able Auctioneer will give of me, upon opening the sale? I wish my good friend Puff may out-live me, to have the job. There is no man sets forth the merit of any thing in such happy terms. He has words at will, as they say. What an high opinion will be raise of my learning, taste,

taste, and judgment? But that's right. You said you wanted this fragment, for a particular occasion! I am by no means averse to obliging you. You are welcome to quote it, as in my collection, suppose in this, or some such manner, as appears (proving what you have advanced before) by a most valuable, and rare antique fragment, (or whatever else you shall call it) in the most curious, or costly, or inestimable, or noble, (or perhaps all these) collection of my late most learned, and judicious, and indefatigable, and munificent friend, or whatever other titles of the kind your judgment and regard shall dictate to you.

'I am much obliged to you for the favour; (returned my master, scarce able to restrain his laughter) and shall be sure to avail myself of it, at the proper time, as also to do it in a manner, which, however short it may fall of your merit, will yet testify my high and respectful sense of it.'—Saying this, he gave him the change of his note, among which I was, and sent him away happy.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

A modest method of seeking fame. CHRYSAL'S master confirms himself in his resolution to gratify an uncommon curiosity, by a great example. The judicious and learned manner in which he classed and entered his new acquisitions. Curious remark on the value of books. He goes to an auction, where he makes an extraordinary purchase. CHRYSAL changes his service, for that of the Auctioneer. Specimen and effects of his new master's eloquence, learning, and judgment.

A MAN'S spending his life and fortune, in buying up books of learning, and obscure remains of antiquity, only to make a great sale after his death, was a method of seeking fame more modest than I had hitherto met among mankind. As soon as my new master reached home, he went directly into his Museum, and taking out his rare purchases, stared at them for some time in a kind of stupid delight, till no longer able to contain it, 'What an opinion (said he) will the world have of me, when all these come to be shewn for sale? I hope my worthy friend Puff will live to do me justice! What if I should beg of him to give me a specimen of the manner in which he will set them out? He cannot refuse me that gratification, in return for all the money he has taken from me, especially as I have told him that I design he shall have the job. Such a request is not improper. It has the sanction of one of the greatest names in antiquity to support it. Cicero, the great Cicero, desired his friend the historian to let him know
what

what he intended to say of him; and need I hesitate to follow his example? Whatever has the authority of antiquity must be right; and therefore I will go to him directly about it.---But hold! I must enter these articles in my catalogue first.'

Then taking down an huge folio richly bound, and inscribed CATALOGUE, on the back and sides, in capitals of gold, he sat down to insert this valuable addition to his treasure; and opening the book with great deliberation, 'What are the heads (said he) under which they are to be classed? Let me see! Antiques! no. That is for my coins, and busts, and urns. What is the next? Ancient manuscripts, and fragments! Aye! these are they, Let me consider now, what are the titles!---Then laying the fore finger of his right hand upon the tip of his nose, supporting his chin with his thumb, shutting his eyes, and leaning back in his chair, on the arm of which he rested his elbow. 'How unlucky it was' (resumed he, after a long pause) 'that he did not tell their names! I was ashamed to ask him directly, though I did as much, if he had minded me. But can't I make them out, from what he said? A very antique manuscript---no. That will not do. Antique is for works of art; ancient is the word here.---A very ancient manuscript written by Thomas a Becket in the second century, and found in his tomb at the Restoration, proving that Joseph of Arimathea was an English bishop.---Yes. That is it. And then for the fragment.---a very ancient.---no, antique. Antique is the word for fragments, they are made by art; a very antique fragment torn from a monument on mount Libanus, proving that some great person was buried there; and that a lion was the arms of Judah.---Aye; these will.

will do! I knew I could make them out. This is just the substance of what he said, but in fewer and better words. Titles should be short and pithy. *Multum in parvo.* Much in a little compass. Let me alone for hitting off a striking title. I have not been an Antiquarian so long for nothing.'—Then conning them over twice or thrice to try how they sounded, he entered them in his catalogue, and putting the book back into its place, sat down to contemplate his own consequence in the learned world.

But sublime as this enjoyment was, his indefatigable industry would not permit him to indulge it long. 'Hah!' (said he, starting, as upon sudden recollection) 'that's right! the sale of those Chinese characters, brought over in the last fleets, comes on about this very time. It was quite out of my head; and I would not have missed of them on any account. They'll make a capital article; for the Chinese taste is coming into such great vogue, that I suppose we shall soon learn their language, though I should be sorry to see that too, as it would lessen the value of my Chinese books; for books are valued now the more for not being understood, as I know by experience, having laid out many a pound in the purchase of such as I understand no more of, than if they were Chinese. But let those who know no other use of books but to read them, buy only such as they can read: I collect mine for another purpose, and a noble collection I will have, let it cost me what it will; I care not whether I die worth a groat beside. The fame of that is fortune enough for me.'

Pursuant to this noble resolution he went directly to the sale, where he was so charmed with the Auctioneer's learning and eloquence, that he out-bade every

every body, and carried off in triumph the curious, the rare, the inestimable key, into all the mysterious, the profound, the sublime wisdom of that prince of all Philosophers, Legislators, and Hierarchs, the divine GOVERNOR, and all his learned, and judicious Disciples and Commentators, THE CHINESE CHARACTERS, in paying for which, I changed his service for that of the auctioneer.

My new master proceeded for the remainder of the sale, to display his abilities in the same extraordinary manner; giving circumstantial accounts of things he knew nothing of; and bestowing the most extravagant praises for excellencies of his own invention, often inconsistent with each other, and with the subject to which they were ignorantly attributed, with a confidence that bore down doubt, and gained implicit credit with the gaping crowd, in defiance to reason, and their very senses, till he led them on by little and little, to pay the price of such an imaginary value. But this will be best explained by an instance that happened just after I came into his possession.

The sale of that day consisted nominally of the collection of a Cheesemonger lately deceased, who had been an eminent Antiquarian, and Virtuoso. I say nominally; because, though the whole went under his name, scarce the tenth part of it had ever been his, the rest being made up from every quarter by my master. Among the rare, curious, and costly articles exhibited on this occasion, was a vessel of Porcelain, of an uncommon shape, ornamented with several odd and uncouth representations of animals, and some figures not unlike the characters of a language.

'Gentlemen,' (said my master, as soon as this was pro-

produced) ' You here see one of the rarest, and most valuable remains of antiquity, ever brought into Europe.' This here superb vase was the identical cup, out of which the sublime emperors of China for numberless ages drank the consecrated wine, on the day of their coronation. It was found, gentlemen, among the treasures of the Great Mogul by Thomas Couli Can, when he dethroned that there prince, out of the wreck of whose spoils, when they were lost in passing the river of the Indies, it was saved by a Chinese Nabob, from whom it was afterwards taken, together with his crown, by that there heaven-born general, who made those effeminate, and dastardly Indians tremble at the name of an Englishman; and given by him as a precious token of his esteem, to the deceased, his very learned and curious friend. This, gentlemen, is in few words the whole full and true account of this here inestimable curiosity, every word of which can be proved by unquestionable authority. As for the vase itself, exclusive of all this, its own merits give it sufficient value. Observe these here figures, gentlemen; they are Egyptian hieroglyphics, denoting the duties of a sovereign, which those wise Mandarines always take care to instruct their emperors in. This here lion, for instance, signifies, that he must be courageous and valiant; this fox, that he must be wise: and so on. But the most extraordinary thing of all, gentlemen, is these here characters. They are a talisman, or charm, invented by Mahomet to protect the owner of this cup from the influence of evil spirits. I do not presume, gentlemen, to stand up for the virtue of such things. The notion of spirits, I am sensible, is much exploded; and the religion of Mahomet cried down among us; but still,

gentlemen, without entering into these here nicenesses, we all know that he was a great man, and lived a great while ago, which is sufficient to make any thing that was his, of great value to men of learning, who are above prejudice in these matters. But beside all this, these here characters are of the greatest importance, on another account; as they prove beyond dispute, that the true method of writing the learned languages was without accents, not one appearing, as you see, gentlemen, in this most original and authentic relick of ancient learning, and so put an end to that there controversy, that has so long puzzled the world. It were presumption in me, gentlemen, to attempt putting a value on a thing that is invaluable. I will therefore set it up at what you please, as you are the best judges. This only I will make bold to say, that the best judge of all will have it, as he will give most for it; for too much it is impossible to give.

So just an account, and such judicious praise, could not fail of effect. The Virtuosi round him, satisfied that what he said must be true, because spoken with confidence, and above their comprehension, vied with each other for the possession of so inestimable a treasure, till they raised it to an height, at which they themselves were surpris'd, as soon as the spirit of bidding began to cool, and they had time to reflect.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

An unfavoury accident stops him short in his harangue. He turns off the jest, with another, and accounts learnedly for what has happened. The real cause and consequence of that accident. Reflections on auctioneering, and the causes of its success.

THIS was the time, for which he always reserved the highest flights of his eloquence, to raise that spirit again. Resuming therefore his harangue, ' You pause, gentlemen, (said he) only to consider how much farther you may rise with safety; for it is impossible that persons of your profound taste and judgment should disgrace them so much, as to let such a jewel go for so mere a trifle. Do not take my word, gentlemen, for its value. I may be mistaken, but you cannot. Examine it therefore yourselves. Observe the beauty of these here unknown figures! read these unintelligible characters; and smell the aromattick odour which the vase still retains, and ever will retain, from the quintessences of all the spices of the Indies, which used to be mixed with the consecrated wine. The perfume is almost enough to revive the dead.'

Saying this, he went to smell it himself to lead the way to the rest, and putting the mouth of it to his nose, without taking off the cover, that the fragrance should not evaporate, as he raised his hand, a stream, that emitted a favour far from aromattick, gushed out into his face, and filled his mouth, as well as nose, with something more substantial than perfume.

It is impossible to describe his situation, at such a disgraceful accident. Surprize, shame, and loathing aggravated each other, and threw him into such confusion, as once in his life deprived him of utterance for some moments. As soon as he had emptied his mouth, and wiped his face, 'Villain,' (sputtered he to his servant) 'how has this happened? Whom have you let play me this base, malicious, low-liv'd trick?'

'S---S---Sir,' (answered the fellow, as well as his struggle to suppress his laughter permitted him to speak) 'I know nothing of the matter. I never left any one a moment alone among the things, but them there ladies, who I told you sent me out for a glass of Ratifia, t'other morning, and how could I have suspected their doing such a thing?'

'Ratifia!' (replied my master, who had by this time recovered his assurance, and knew the best way to turn off one jest is by another) 'Gin, you should say; for if I can judge by taste, and smell, that is their liquor. I suppose they did it on purpose to revenge their sex upon Mahomet, for taking away their souls. (I wish he had also taken away the filthiness of their dispositions!) by defiling so celebrated a monument of his learning and skill, in this nasty manner, Hah! hah! hah!-----'

The oddity of such a thought naturally made the company join in his laugh; but could not so far wipe off the disgrace which the defiled vase had suffered, as to make any more be offered for it, so that it was forced to be knocked down to the last bidder, at not much more than if it had been made of gold, at which the purchaser and my master were equally mortified, tho' for different and with very unequal reasons.

As

As for the cause of this misfortune; it was really what the servant said. One of the ladies, who came to view the curiosities, having certain pressing occasions, feigned a pretence to send him out; and in the mean time made such use of this vase, being the first conveniency that came to her hand, as overpowered the scent of some spices, which had been put into it for the purpose.

It was fortunate for my master, that this was the last article in the sale of that day, as a spirit of ridicule could not be favourable to his business. As soon as the company was gone, he settled his accounts, and summing up the profits, 'Why this is pretty well!' (said he, rubbing his hands and shrugging up his shoulders) 'this does pretty well! Though if that damned accident had not happened, (turning up his nose, and spitting with loathing) it would have been much better, The fools were in the humour, and wanted only to be kept up. However, I have not much right to complain upon the whole. That there Jordan cost me five shillings, and I have sold it for fifty pounds. Much good may the judicious buyer make of his bargain. This is the happiness of a man's having his tongue well hung. A mealy mouth will never do in my business; which after all is the best going. I might have stood freezing behind a counter this month, and not made half this much. In the way of fair trade, as it is called, people have their senses about them, and stand to examine before they buy, but any trumpery will go off in this way.'

I have observed your astonishment at the easiness with which my master succeeded in such gross imposition; but the reason of it is obvious. All mankind

have an ambition of distinguishing themselves one way or another; and generally chuse that in which they have the least qualifications to entitle them to success, in order to hide their own deficiency. The coward, for instance, affects valour; the block-head knowledge; and the illiterate tradesman, who has made a fortune by plodding, or in some illiberal business, taste and judgment in the abstrusest pursuits of learned curiosity, in which, as there is no fixed rule to judge by, caprice takes the direction, and opens an ample field for imposition.

As to the business of auctioneering in general, it owes the greatest part of that success with which my master was so pleased, to another cause. The desire of buying bargains, which governs every one who buys any thing, makes people crowd to those places where things are to be sold, not as in the regular course of trade, for what they appear to be worth, but for the most that can be got for them; and there emulation, dependence on each other's judgment, (those people know what they are doing, and would not bid so much, if it was not worth more) and the oratory of the auctioneer, lead them by insensible advances, as their spirits rise, to give prices which they never meant to give, when they began to bid. That great bargains are often got at such places is true, but that is chiefly in a particular branch of the business, the mystery of which will be explained to you.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

CHRYSAL's master is visited by a CONNOISSEUR, to whom he gives a short receipt how to make his pictures sell, and makes some striking remarks on the disregard people shew for their families, which sends his visitor away in a buff.

MY master was interrupted in his pleasing meditations, by the entrance of a gentleman, the sight of whom promised him the greatest pleasure of carrying the subject of them into execution. After some judicious remarks on the taste of the town, and the present state of virtue, in the course of which each liberally complimented the other, 'Pray, Sir, (said the gentleman) how do pictures sell this season?'

'Never better, Sir (answered my master) pictures are every body's money now. A good master brings any thing; and what is more, I am convinced they will rise still higher, so that buyers have no time to lose. I have a sale next week, when you will see such prices as will astonish you. There are some things there that I know you will have, let them cost what they will, they suit your fine collection so exactly.

'Why, as to that,' (replied the gentleman) 'my mind is a good deal changed. I have often taken it into my head lately to part with my pictures, and have therefore called upon you to desire that you will come in the morning, and let me know what you think they are worth.'

'Worth, Sir! they are worth a great deal of money; which there is not the least danger but they will bring,

bring, if they are managed properly. There is more, Sir, in the management of a sale, much more than most people dream of, I assure you.'—

'I am sensible of that, Sir; and also of your abilities in such management, which you will have the best encouragement to exert on this occasion, as I propose selling the whole to you together, if we can agree.'—

This turn came so unexpected, that it struck my master quite down of the mouth, as he was sensible that he had overshot himself, and spoiled his market by saying so much: 'It is very unlucky, Sir; (answered he, changing his note directly) 'that I did not know your intention sooner. I could then have divided them properly among the several sales of the season; but it is now quite too late; this here one next week is the last; and the catalogues for that are all made out, and dispersed, so that there is no possibility of slipping in a single article. Besides, the buyers have laid out all their money.'—

'Slipping in, Sir! I don't understand you. Do not you think my pictures are sufficient both in number and value to make a sale by themselves? I am sure I have more than I have once known you make noise enough about, collections in no respect equal to mine. There must be some mystery in this, which I cannot comprehend.'

'Very true, Sir! there are mysteries, as you observe, in all businesses; and perhaps in none more than our's.'

'I am not enquiring into your mysteries. All I desire to know is, why after just telling me that pictures never bore so high a price as at this time, and that

mine

mine could not fail of bringing a great deal of money, you should so soon change your opinion.'

'Pardon me, Sir! I have not changed my opinion in the least; and shall be very proud to serve you to the best of my abilities, in the way of a sale; but there is a material reason, why I must beg to be excused in buying them, to stand the hazard of it myself.'-----

'I should be glad to know what that reason can be, for I must own I cannot conceive it.'

'Why, Sir, it is a thing to be sure that may seem odd to you; but experience has taught us the truth of it. In short, Sir, it is your being alive.'

'How! my being alive! What difference can my life or death make in the value of my pictures?'

'A very great one, Sir, I assure you. In all the course of my business, I never knew one instance of a sale's going off well, where the owner was living. People conclude that a person parts with pictures either through dislike or necessity. The former, you know, depreciates them at once; nor does the other much less; as people of fashion despise a man, and every thing belonging to him, the moment it is known that he is in distress. Besides, an Auctioneer's tongue is tied up from saying any thing of a person's taste, and judgment, and all that, while he is living, it sounds so fulsome; and you are sensible that a good character of the collector often goes a great way in helping off a collection.'

'The best thing then for a man to do on such an occasion, I presume, would be to shoot himself through the head. Hah!'

'Hah! Hah! Hah! You are pleased to jest, Sir; but to be sure it would be of great advantage. Curiosity

city brings all the world upon those occasions, and then a man has an opportunity of saying so many things as 'that the deceased would not take ten times so much, if he were living;' or, 'that the high price he gave for it caused the distress that made him kill himself; or a thousand other striking things of the kind. I never have so much pleasure as upon those occasions, they give a man so much room to shew himself. Indeed, if gentlemen considered the thing in time, more of them would take this method of delivering themselves and their families both from distress, and not defer it till all is gone, and the survivors can make nothing by their death; but few people take any care for their families now-o'days. It is a bold push to be sure; tho' not so bad as a man's shooting himself to win a wager neither. I should beg your pardon, Sir, for speaking so freely; but as I know it is not your ease, you cannot take offence; though even if I thought it was, I would not presume to recommend such a think for the world. Every body is to judge for himself. I only give you my opinion what effect it would have.'

'I understand you very well, Sir;' (answered the gentleman, who had much difficulty to hear him out) 'and in return for your opinion, will give you my advice, which is to consider better whom you speak to in this insolent manner another time, for fear of receiving such chastisement, as contempt alone prevents my giving you this moment.'-----On saying which words he turned about and left the room.

CHAR.

C H A P. XVIII.

CHRYSAL's master receives an agreeable summons.

His encomiums on the generosity of merchants, an account of the way many of them acquire reputation for taste and judgment. He meets the merchant, who consults him on a different branch of his business, from that which he expected. CHRYSAL's master, in order to encourage his customer, gives a large account of his own abilities, and opens some curious secrets in his business. A bargain is struck, to the mutual satisfaction of both parties: and CHRYSAL changes his service for that of the merchant.

WELL as my master was accustomed to rebukes, there was something in the nature of this which disconcerted him so much that he had not power to make the gentleman any reply. But he was soon relieved from the trepidation into which it threw him, by a message from an eminent merchant to meet him directly at a neighbouring tavern. 'Aye,' (said he, adjusting his wig at the glass, and putting on his cloak) 'this is the thing! There is some difference between treating with a good substantial citizen who will mind what a man says, and your people of fashion, who fly into a rage forsooth, if they can't have their own way in every thing. No people part with their money so freely as merchants. They don't stand higgling, and criticizing like the others. All they require is to be asked a good price, and then they think a thing must be good of course. Many a time have I got five times
more

more from a merchant, than I dared to have asked from a duke. I suppose he wants to shew his taste next week at the sale; and has sent for me to tell him which are the best pieces, and how much he may bid for them. He is not the first citizen whom my instructions have made pass for a man of taste and judgment. I love such pupils, they pay so well for their learning; and that more ways than one; for they buy what no body else would bid for; it is only slipping a puffer or two of quality at them, enough of whom come sharking at every sale for that purpose only, and they may be raised to any price. No people part with their money like merchants.'

When he came to the tavern he found the merchant waiting for him. After the compliments common upon such occasions were politely interchanged, 'I desired to see you (said the merchant, proceeding to business, though not without evident confusion) on an affair that will convince you of my confidence in your abilities and honour. Trade, as you know, has been so dead some time past, that there is no getting in a penny of money, without tearing people to pieces. Now, as I had rather suffer something myself, than oppress any honest man, till he can bring his affairs about, I should be glad to dispose of some parcel of goods, even under their value, to raise money for present occasions, that is, provided it can be done in such a manner as not to be known as such a thing might injure a man's credit.'

'Dear Sir, (answered my master, whose heart leaped with joy at the mention of such an affair) never fear that; I'll engage to manage it so, that if every one who knows you, were to watch, they'd never even suspect

spe& the least of the matter. There is nothing easier, nor more common in the way of business; and it luckily happens, that I have the finest opportunity at this very time, that ever I had in my life. I have a large sale under a commission, the very week after next, into which I can hedge a thousand or two, with the greatest ease and safety. Assigners never take notice of such things. We understand one another better than that. Many a worthy man have I enabled to hold his head above water, for years, by this method. To be sure, it must have an end some time; but then a man stands in fortune's way for a lucky hit, you know; and not only that, but also makes sure of so much good living in the mean time, and can be no worse at the last; and then, when all comes to all, and there must be a blow-up, it gives him an opportunity of securing something against a rainy day, as the saying is. As for its being discovered, there are ways enough to prevent that. It is but entering them as sold, and I'll find a buyer, that shall never be heard more of. Lord, Sir, if it was not for things of this kind, our business would be nothing to what it is. Half the sales you see every day in the papers, are made up in this manner.'

'Well, Sir, (replied the merchant, who had listened to him with attention, and seemed greatly affected at some part of what he said) I presume you understand your business; and as I have no doubt of your honour, I shall leave the whole entirely to your management. Here is an account of the particulars, which I want to dispose of at this time. They are in a private warehouse, whither I have had them conveyed to be ready for the purpose, of which this is the key; and here is a

bill of sale, which I will execute directly, as I have an occasion for two thousand pounds this very evening. You see there is value more than sufficient for double that sum, as you will be a better judge when you see the goods, but the rest can stand forward till they are disposed of; and the account made up.'

'Really, Sir, I should be extremely glad to serve you; but I fear, I have not so much cash by me. However, if you please, I'll go with you, and look at the goods; and then I'll step home, and try what I can do.'

Accordingly away they went together to the warehouse, where my master, being satisfied with the value of the goods, left the merchant, and bled him home directly with a joyful heart for the money.

'So! (said he to himself, as he went along) I thought what things would come to in the end! His coach, and country house! his wife's routs! and his own kept mistress have made quick work with him. I believe such men must imagine the rest of the world to be blind, or they would never go on at such a rate. I suppose he's preparing for a place in the Gazette tomorrow, or next day. But that is no affair of mine. I'll take care to make a safe bargain for myself; and let him look to the rest. I am not to swear for him. Of all the business in our way, I like this the best. A man can make up what account he pleases, without danger of its being disputed with him. All here is snug and secure. If I could get but jobs enough of this kind, I'd let who would chaffer for toys, and daubings with people of quality, who often outsharp us, in spite of all our experience.'

By this time he reached home, where he soon made

up

up the money, with the help of that and the former day's sale, without hesitating a moment at its not being his own, and taking with him proper persons to attest his bargain, and new locks to make sure of it, returned to the merchant, with whom he soon concluded every thing without scruple or delay on either side; and then paying him on the spot, in bank notes and cash, (among the latter of which I was) sent him away, as well satisfied, as he himself staid behind.

CHAP. XIX.

Motive of CHRYSAL's new master for making such a bargain, with the many and great advantages a merchant may make of being in the house. A short sketch of an election. The curious method which CHRYSAL's master took to evade the laws against bribery. He takes offence at the unreasonable presumption of his constituents, and resolves to make the most of the bargain he has bought from them, which by a singular piece of management he proposes to make cheaper than they think. CHRYSAL changes his service, for that of the idol of an inn. The consequences of electioneering. Some account of CHRYSAL's new mistress. He quits her service, for a curious purpose. An expedient to prevent the sale of poison for mind and body. CHRYSAL again changes his service.

WHEN a man has fixed his mind upon gaining a particular end, he slights any inconveniencies which may attend the means. Though my new master was sensible of the loss he must suffer by his bargain, the

prospect of accomplishing the purpose for which he made it, prevented its giving him any concern.

As soon as he got home, he gave orders to have his equipage made ready for a journey into the country early next morning, and then retiring into his closet for a few moments before he went to bed, 'At length (said he with a look of self-congratulation) I shall compass, what I have so long set my heart upon. What an advantage is it to a merchant to be in the house? I can laugh at bailiffs and bankruptcies, for five years at least; and in the mean time I shall have a thousand opportunities of making my fortune by pushing boldly in the alley, now that all fears of the immediate consequences are over, or getting beneficial contracts with the government, or at least some genteel and profitable employment under it. A merchant may make many advantages of being in the house! Confound that prating fellow! I was once afraid that he sinoaked my deligh, he came so near some unlucky circumstances; but it was above his cut. All his schemes are common and low-lived. This of mine is a master-stroke. It is playing deep, to be sure! Fifteen hundred for my feat; and what with other expences, and the loss upon this night's work, as much more. It is playing damn'd deep. But it is too late to think of that now. I have sported many thousands upon a worse chance in my time. At any rate I can laugh at bailiffs and bankruptcies, for five years at least; what an advantage it is to a merchant to be in the house.'

Saying this he went to bed, where the advantages of being in the house still ran so strongly in his head, that he dreamed of nothing all night, but bullying creditors

ters, and cringing to ministers; doing jobs, and getting contracts, places and pensions.

In pursuance of his scheme, he set out next morning with a splendid retinue for the borough he had in view, where he managed matters with such judgment and generosity, keeping the whole town drunk from the moment he arrived, according to the policy which permits a candidate to deprive his electors of their senses, in order to enable them to judge better of his legislative abilities, that he was elected in preference to a gentleman, the munificence of whose family had for many generations been the chief support of the place, and who himself spent his ample fortune in hospitality, and beneficence in it, but disdained to buy the votes of a venal crew on this occasion.

As such a competitor naturally had every man of worth and honour in his interest, it had been necessary for my master to proceed with the utmost care and circumspection. Accordingly, instead of directly giving his voters money, he lent them the prices stipulated, on the security of their notes of hand, payable in a certain time; an expedient, in which he had a further view, than barely evading the laws against such practices.

Every thing being concluded, he was preparing to depart in triumph, when his constituents waited upon him in form, with certain instructions for executing the trust they had thus reposed in him. Though he looked upon this as such a bare-faced piece of insolence, that he scarce knew how to bear it, yet as he had not yet taken his seat, he received their commands with the politest humility, and promised the most faithful obedience to them. But they were no sooner out of his sight, than he changed his note. 'Impudent un-

reasonable scoundrels! (said he to himself, giving vent to his indignation, as he walked back and forward in the room) to talk of having reposed your trust in me, and pretend to give me instructions! I have bought you; and I will sell you to the best bidder, if he were the devil; and a bad bargain he will have of you if he buys you as dear as I have. Though I have a stroke in my head to bring myself home, that you little think of. Those notes of hand, which you thought I took only to evade the law, shall be paid to the last farthing, if I am not chosen for nothing next election. You shall find you have no fool to deal with.'

Just as he said this, he received notice that his coach was ready, and the landlord's daughter coming to wish him a good journey, he saluted her politely, and slipping a couple of guineas (one of which I was) into her hand to buy a ribbon, left the house like a man of honour.

I have not entered particularly into the circumstances of electioneering. They are too gross to give pleasure; and too well known to require repetition even to you. The effects I mean immediately in the place, were such as reason may suggest to you. The electors, instead of making any advantage of the price, for which they had thus literally sold their consciences, liberties and properties, continued to wallow in drunkenness, till every penny of it was spent, after which it was so long before they could settle rightly to work again, that it required a year's hard labour and starving to repair what they suffered by this bout of excess and idleness.

My new mistress was what is not unjustly called the idol of an inn. Endowed by nature with prettiness enough

enough to entitle her to flattery, and sufficient pertness to make her a coquet, on her return from a boarding-school, where her natural talents were so well improved by education, that she was thought fit to try her fortune in the world, she took her place in the bar, and flirted away with every gentleman that came to the house, in hopes of taking in some one of the number for marriage, as others in her way had done.

The first passion of the female heart is for finery, to the gratification of which girls seldom fail to apply all the money in their power. But though my mistress was very far from being insensible to this passion, another scarce less powerful with the sex, took place of it at this time, which was curiosity.

A young officer, who had lately been quartered in the house, and made warm addresses to her, had said so many fine things in praise of a certain book, called, *Memoirs of a Lady of Pleasure*, that she resolved to see it, and for that purpose applied to a circulating library in the town, the keeper of which told her, it was so scarce and valuable a book that he could not possibly procure it for her under a guinea.

High as this price was, she would have found means to raise it, so strong was her curiosity, had not the hurry of the election, which just then came on, taken up all her time. But every obstacle was now removed, and the very evening I came into her possession, she muffled herself up in one of the maid's cloaks, and went for it as soon as it was dark, when I was the purchase of her extraordinary bargain.

I see you are shocked at the dishonesty and wickedness of my new master for hiring out at such a price, or indeed at any price at all a book, whose obvious design
(and

(and which is too well calculated to accomplish) is to supplant every principle of virtue in the youthful mind. But the blame rests not solely upon him. The excuse, which the poet puts into the mouth of the apothecary for selling poison, that 'his poverty, but not his will consented,' may with equal justice be alledged in palliation of a poor bookseller's vending impious or immoral books, the poison of the mind.

For this reason, as no penalty, however severe, may be sufficient to combat that necessity, the most effectual way to prevent the vending of either poison would be absolutely to prohibit all those, whose poverty might subject them to such temptation, from trading in books or drugs of any kind; as it is most certain, that if there were neither poor apothecaries nor poor booksellers, the sale of both vicious books and noxious drugs, would be much less extensive than it is, if it could not be totally suppressed; their being very few of the human species so entirely given up to a reprobate sense, as to murder either the soul or body of a fellow creature, merely for the pleasure of doing it.

It may be judged that I did not remain long in the service of this master. The next morning after I came into his possession, he came to London, where he laid out all the money he had in the purchase of a parcel of such books, as he thought most likely to suit the taste of his customers, without regard either to virtue, or religion, on which occasion I changed his service for that of his bookseller.

CHAP.

C H A P. XX.

Account of CHRYSAL'S new master. His beroick spirit and resolution to push for a pension or pillary. Meeting between him and a poet, who turns the tables upon him. A curious method of forming a judgment of a work of genius. CHRYSAL'S master is beaten out of all his art, and for once buys a book by quality not quantity. The value of an author's name. CHRYSAL changes his service.

MY new master was one of those aspiring genius's, whom desperate circumstances drive to push at every thing, and court consequences, the bare apprehension of which terrifies men, who have some character and fortune to lose, out of their senses. He was that evening to meet at a tavern, an author, the boldness and beauty of whose writings had for some time engaged the public attention in a particular manner, and made his numerous admirers tremble for his safety.

As he happened to out-stay his time, my master's importance took offence at a freedom, which he thought so much out of character. 'This is very pretty truly! (said he, walking back and forward in a chafe) that I should wait an hour for an author. It was his business to have been here first, and waited for me; but he is so puffed up of late, that he has quite forgot himself. Booksellers seldom meet with such insolence from authors. I should serve him right to go away and disappoint him. But would not that disappoint myself more? He is come into such vogue lately, that

that the best man in the trade would be glad to get him. Well! if he does not do what I want, I know not who can! Fools may be frightened at the thoughts of a cart's tail, or a pillory, I know better things: Where they come in a popular cause, nothing sets a man's name up to such advantage; and that is the first step towards making a fortune; as for the danger, it is only a mere bug-bear, while the mob is on my side. And therefore I'll go on without fear, if I am not bought off. A pension or a pillory is the word.'

These heroic meditations were interrupted by the entrance of the author, who throwing himself carelessly into a chair, 'I believe I have made you wait (said he) but I could not help it. I was obliged to stay to kick a puppy of a printer, who had been impertinent; as I am to meet company directly, so let me hear what you have to say.'

'I thought, Sir, (answered my master, with an air of offended importance) you had appointed me to meet you here on business; and business you know cannot be hurried over so soon.'---

'Don't mention business to me! I hate the very name of it; as to any that can possibly be between you and me, it may be done in five minutes, as well as five years, so speak directly, and without farther preamble, for all your finesses could have no effect upon me, even if I would submit to let you try them.'---

'Finesses, Sir! I don't know what you mean! I defy the world to charge me with having ever been guilty of any. The business I desired to meet you upon, was about a poem, I was informed you had ready for the press, and which I should be glad to treat with you for.'---

'Well,

‘ Well, Sir ! and what will you give me for it ? Be quick ; for I cannot wait to make many words.’—

‘ What ! before I have seen it ! It is impossible for me to say, till I have looked it over, and can judge what it is, and how much it will make.’—

‘ As to your judging what it is, that must depend upon inspiration, which I imagine you will scarcely make pretence to, till you turn Methodist at least ; but for what it will make, here it is ; and you may judge of that, while I go down stairs for a few minutes.’— Saying which, he gave him an handful of loose papers, and left the room.

The first thing my master did, when left thus to form his judgment of a work of genius, was to number the pages, and then the lines in a page or two ; by the time he had done which the author returned, and taking the papers out of his hand, ‘ Well, Sir, (said he) and what is the result of your judgment ?’—

‘ Why really, Sir, (answered my master, after some pause) I hardly know what to say. I have cast off the copy, and do not think it will make more than a shilling, however pompously printed.’—

‘ What you think it will make is not the matter ; but what will you give me for it ? I sell my works by the quality, not the quantity.’—

‘ I do not doubt the quality of them in the least ; but considering how much the trade is over-stocked at present, and what a mere drug poetry has long been, I am a good deal at a loss what to offer, as I should be unwilling to give you or any gentleman offence by seeming to undervalue your works. What do you think of five guineas ? I do not imagine that more can be given for so little ; nor indeed should I be fond of giving even that,

that, but in compliment to you: I have had twice as much for two, many a time.'

'Much good may your bargain do you, Sir; but I will not take less than fifty for mine in compliment to you, or any bookseller alive; and so, Sir, I desire to know without more words (for I told you before that your eloquence would be thrown away upon me!) whether you will give that; as I am in haste to go to company, much more agreeable to me than your's.'

'What, Sir! fifty guineas, for scarce five hundred lines! such a thing was never heard of in the trade.'

'Confound your trade, and you together! Here waiter, what's to pay?'

'But, dear Sir! why will you be in such an hurry? Can you not give yourself and me time to consider a little? Perhaps we might come nearer to each other!'

'I have told you before, and I repeat it you again, that I will have so much; and that without more words.'

'You are very peremptory, Sir; but you know your own value; and therefore, in hopes you will let me have more for my money next time, I will venture to give you your price now; though really, if it was not for your name, I could not possibly do it; but to be sure that is worth a shilling extraordinary I own.'

'Which is twelve pence more than your's ever will be, unless to the Ordinary of Newgate. But come, give me the money! I want to go to my company.'

'Well, Sir! this is an hasty bargain; but I take it upon your word; and don't doubt but there is merit

in it, to answer such a price. Satire, Sir! keen satire; and so plain, that he who runs may read, as the saying is, is the thing now-o'days. Where there is any doubt or difficulty in the application, it takes off the pleasure from the generality of readers, who will scarce be satisfied with less than the very name. That, Sir, is your great merit. Satire must be personal, or it will never do.'-----

'Personal! that mine never shall be. Vices, not Persons, are the objects of my satire; though where I find the former, I never spare the latter, be the rank and character of life what it will.'

My master had by this time counted out the money, (among which I was) which the author took without telling over, and then went to his company, leaving the bookseller scarcely more pleased with his bargain, than mortified at the cavalier treatment he had met in making it.

CHAP. XXI.

Some account of the company to which CHRYSAL's new master went. His behaviour to a young female, who accosted him in his way home. He takes her to a tavern for an uncommon purpose, where he treats her uncommonly, and goes home with her from as uncommon a motive. Account of what he saw in her habitation, with the manner in which he behaved there. He takes another lodging for the whole family, where he leaves them abruptly, to save himself and them trouble.

THE company, to which my new master was in such haste to go, consisted of a few persons, whom a similarity of temper had linked in the closest intimacy. With these he spent the remainder of the evening, in a manner which few would dislike, though fewer still could approve it; the spirited wit and liveliness of their conversation gilded the grossest debaucheries; at the same time, that the rectitude and sublimity of their sentiments, whenever their hearts could find opportunity to speak, made the vices of their practice still more horrible by the contrast.

They broke not up, as it might be imagined, till nature sunk under their excesses, when my master, as he staggered home, was accosted by a female, who had something in her air and manner so different from those outcasts of humanity, who offer themselves to casual prostitution in the streets, that his curiosity was struck, and he stopped to take more particular notice of her. She appeared to be about fifteen. Her figure was elegant,

gant, and her features regular ; but want had sicklied o'er their beauty ; and all the horrors of despair gloomed through the languid smile she forced, when she addressed him.

The sigh of distress, which never struck his ear without affecting his heart, came with double force from such an object. He viewed her with silent compassion for some moments ; and reaching her a piece of gold, bade her go home, and shelter herself from the inclemencies of the night, at so late an hour. Her surprise and joy at such unexpected charity overpowered her. She dropped upon her knees, in the wet and dirt of the street, and raising her hands and eyes toward heaven, remained in that posture for some moments, unable to give utterance to the gratitude that filled her heart.

Such a sight was more expressive than all the powers of eloquence. He raised her tenderly from the ground, and soothing her with words of comfort, offered to conduct her to some place, where she might get that refreshment of which she appeared to be in too great want. ' O ! Sir, (said she, pressing the hand that had raised her, with her cold trembling lips) my deliverer, sent by heaven to save me from despair, let me not think of taking refreshment myself, till I have first procured it for those, whose greater wants I feel ten thousand times more severely than my own.'

' Who can they be ? (interrupted he with anxious impatience) Can humanity feel greater wants, than those under which you are sinking ?'

' My father, (exclaimed she, bursting into tears) languishing under infirmities, acquired in the service of his country ; my mother, worn out with attending on him,

and both perishing for want, (heaven grant they are not, already dead!) together with two infant brothers, insensible of the cause of their distress, and crying to them, for a morsel of bread, which it is not in their power to give.'

'Where can such a scene of wretchedness be hidden from relief? I'll go with you myself directly! but stop! let us first procure some comfortable nourishment from some of the houses, which are kept open at this late hour, for a very different purpose. Come with me! we have no time to lose.'—With these words, he went directly to a tavern, and enquiring what victuals were dressed in the house, loaded her with as much as she could carry of the best, and putting a couple of bottles of wine in his own pocket, walked with her to her habitation, which was in a blind alley, happily for her not very far distant, as weakness, together with the conflict of passions struggling in her heart, made her scarce able to go.

When they came to the door, she would have gone up first for a light, but he was resolved to accompany her, that he might see the whole scene in its genuine colours. He therefore followed her up to the top of the house, where, opening the door of the garret, she discovered to him such a scene of misery, as struck him with astonishment. By the light of a lamp, that glimmered in the fireless chimney, he saw lying on a bare bedstead, without any other covering than the reliicks of their own rags, a man, a woman, and two children, shuddering with cold, though huddled together, to share the little warmth, which exhausted nature still supplied them with.

While he stood gazing in horror at such complicated wretch-

wretchedness, his conductors ran to the bed-side, and falling on her knees, 'O! Sir! Macam! (exclaimed she in rapture) Arise! I have got relief from an angel of heaven!'—

'Take care! (answered a voice, the hollow trembling of which was sharpened with indignation) take care it is not from a fiend of hell, who has taken advantage of your distress to tempt you to ruin! for with whom else could you be till this time of night? But know, wretched girl, that I will never eat the earnings of vice and infamy. A few hours will put an end to my miseries, which have received the only possible addition by this your folly.'

'He must be such indeed (interrupted my master, still more struck with sentiments so uncommon in such a situation) who could think of tempting her in such circumstances to any folly. I will withdraw, while you arise, and then we will consult what can be soonest done to alleviate a distress, of which you appear to undeserving.'—While he said this, he took the wine out of his pockets, and giving it to the daughter, went directly down stairs, without waiting for a reply; and walking back and forward in the street for some time, enjoyed the sublimest pleasure the human heart is capable of, in considering how he had relieved, and should farther relieve, the sufferings of objects so worthy of relief.

By the time he thought they might have learned from their daughter the circumstances of her meeting with him, and taken some nourishment, he returned to them; when the moment he entered the room, the whole family fell upon their knees to thank him. Such humiliation was more than he could bear. He raised them, one by one,

as fast as he could, and taking the father's hand, 'Gracious God! (said he) can a sense of humanity be such an uncommon thing among creatures, who call themselves human, that so poor an exertion of it should be thought deserving of a return, proper to be made only to heaven? Oppress me not, Sir, I conjure you, with the mention of what it would have been a crime, I could never have forgiven myself, to have known I had not done. It is too late to think of leaving this place before to-morrow, when I will provide a better, if there is not any to which you chuse particularly to go. I am not rich; but thank heaven, that it has blessed me with ability and inclination to afford such assistance as may be immediately necessary to you, till means may be thought of for doing more.'

'O, Sir, (answered the mother) well might my daughter call you an angel of heaven! You know not from what misery you have already relieved,'---

'Nor will I know more of it at this time, (interrupted my master) than that which I too plainly see. I will leave you now to your rest, and return as soon as it is day.'

'Speak not of leaving us, Sir! (exclaimed the daughter, who was afraid that if he should go away, he might not return) what rest can we take, in so short a time? Leave us not, I beseech you! leave us not in this place!'---

'Cease, my child! (interrupted the father) nor press your benefactor to continue in a scene of misery, that must give pain to his humane heart.'---

'If my staying will not give you pain (answered my master) I will most willingly stay; but it must be on condition that our conversation points entirely forward to

to happier days. There will be time enough hereafter to look back.

Saying this, he sat down on the bed-side (for other seat the apartment afforded none) between the husband and wife, with whom he spent the little remainder of the night, in such discourse as he thought most likely to divert their attention from their present misery, and inspire their minds with better hopes, while the children, all but the daughter who hung upon his words, comforted at heart with a better meal than they had long tasted, fell fast asleep, as they leaned their heads upon their mother's lap.

As soon as it was day, "Now, Madam, (said my master, addressing himself to the mother) I will go and provide a place for your reception, as you say all places are alike to you. In the mean time accept of this trifle (giving her ten guineas) to provide such necessaries, as you may indispensably want before you remove. When you are settled, we will see what further can be done. I shall be back with you within these three hours at most."

For such beneficence there was no possibility of returning thanks; but their hearts spoke through their eyes, in a language sufficiently intelligible to his. Departing directly to save both himself and them the pain of pursuing a conversation that grew so distressful, he went without regard to change of dress or appearance, to look for a proper lodging for them, where he laid in such provisions of every kind, as he knew they must immediately want. This care employed him till the time he had promised to return, when he found such an alteration in the looks and appearance of them all, as gave his heart delight.

“You

'You see, Sir, (said the mother, as soon as he entered) the effects of your bounty; but do not think that vanity has made us abuse it. These cloaths, what we could raise on which has for some time been our sole support, were the purchase of happier times; and were now redeemed for much less than we must have given for the worst we could buy.--

'Dear Madam, (interrupted my master, taking her hand respectfully) mention not any thing of the kind to me, I beseech you. You will soon see such times again.' Then turning to the husband, 'I have taken a lodging, Sir; (continued he) it is convenient, but not large, as I imagined would be your choice. I will call a coach to take us to it directly. If there are any demands here, let the people of the house be called up, and they shall be paid. I will be your purse-bearer for the present.'

'No, Sir, (replied the husband) there are not any. You have enabled us to discharge all demands upon us. People in our circumstances cannot find credit, because they want it.'

My master would then have gone for a coach, but the daughter insisted on saving him that trouble; upon which he put the whole family into it, and walked away before them to their new lodging. It is impossible to describe what these poor people felt, when they saw the provision he had made for their reception. The father, in particular, could not bear it, but sinking into a chair, 'This is too much! (said he, as soon as a flood of tears had given vent to the fullness of his heart) This is too much. Support me, gracious heavens; who has sent this best of men to my relief, support me under the weight of obligations, which the preservation of these

these alone (looking round upon his wife and children) could induce me to accept.'—Then addressing himself to my master, My heart is not unthankful (continued he) but gratitude in such excess as mine, where there is no prospect of ever making a return, is the severest pain.'

My master, who sought none, attempted often to give the conversation another turn; but finding that they could speak or think of nothing else as yet, he took his leave, promising to come the next day, when their minds should be better settled, to consult what more was in his power to serve them, having first privately taken an opportunity to slip a couple of guineas into the daughter's hand, to avoid the putting the delicacy of her father and mother to farther pain.

END OF THE FIRST BOOK.

CHRYSALIS

CHRYSAL:
OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF A
GUINEA.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

CHRYSAL gives some account of his master. Reason of his having been bred to, and miscarried in a particular profession. Interesting remarks on the different kinds of merit necessary to eminence in different professions, confirmed by striking instances of their success in each. Natural consequence of his being forced into a profession against his inclination. He is compelled by distress to exert his abilities. Contradiction in his character, and the particular turn of his works accounted for. He visits his new family. Affecting story of an officer.

FATIGUED in mind and body from the debauch of the evening before, and the height to which his tenderest passions had been wound up by such a moving

moving scene, my master went directly home, and throwing himself on the bed, slept till next morning, without disturbance from pain or reflection.

The contradictions, which I had seen in his character, prompted my curiosity to take this opportunity of looking back to his past life, to try if in the occurrences of that I could trace their cause. Born in the middle rank of life, his parents were induced by the dawns of uncommon genius, which he discovered in his earliest youth, to give him such an education, as might enable him to make that figure in some of the learned professions, for which paternal fondness flattered them that nature had designed him.

But however greatly he profited by his education, the end proposed by it was far from being pleasing to his inclinations, which the vigour of his mind and body, turned to more active scenes. For this reason, when he was to quit the pursuits of general learning for those of some particular profession, his ardour cooled, and he entirely lost that spirit of emulative ambition, which alone can enable a man to arrive at eminence.

Such a falling-off could not escape the anxious observation of his friends; but as it was not in their power either to remedy it, or gratify his inclination in any other way, all they could do was to enter him into the service of religion, a profession in which though the greatest abilities and application of the human mind, are evidently and indispensibly necessary, yet by the perversion of man, the least are required.

You seem shocked at the severity of this remark, but a moment's reflection will open to you the reason upon which it is founded. In every other profession,
success

success depends upon an opinion of that knowledge which is called merit in it, because mankind see the necessity of such merit to attain the object of the profession. But in the church, the case is quite different. Every man thinks that he knows enough of religion to serve his own turn, and therefore gives himself no trouble about the knowledge of those who profess it, as he concludes that knowledge can be of no service to him; and therefore success in the church depends not on a general opinion of merit, but on particular favour, which for the reason given before, is not the necessary consequence of such merit. An attorney or surgeon, for instance, who is not thought to have some merit in his profession, will never be employed; but let him by any means get into the church, and curry favour with those in power, and he may rise to the first dignities of it, though he has no more merit in this profession, than he had in that, which he was forced to quit for want of bread. And this is the reason, why they who have least abilities for any profession are packed into this; and why, they again, who have the least of these are generally most successful in it; as consciousness of their want of merit makes them take most pains to gain favour.

The consequence of his entering into such a profession against inclination is obvious. An indignant sense of his own natural superiority to his superiors in station, made him fall into the too common error of arguing from the abuse, against the use, and hold in contempt not only them, but also the very profession itself, in which they could have such success, and in which necessity alone obliged him to continue. He disdained to apply abilities which he thought above the end! He neglected

neglected duties, which he saw abused; and at length sunk into a state of listless indifference, in which he would have died in obscurity, had not distress roused him, and extorted an exertion of his abilities, which a mind soured by disappointment of its earliest hopes, and by domestic unhappiness after, turned to satire, with an asperity and strength, that made vice tremble in the bosom of the great, and folly hide her head in the highest places.

As this domestic unhappiness was the immediate cause of those parts of his conduct, which contradicted the general tenour of his character, justice requires that some account should be given of it. In the capricious levity of youth, he fixed his inclination on a female, who had no other recommendation, beside beauty. Prudence would have forbidden a match, in which there was so little prospect of happiness, but men of great abilities too often think it beneath them to listen to her voice. He married her, though, in the phrase of the world, evidently to his ruin; the return she made him for which proof of his love, was infidelity to his bed. This is the deepest wound that can be given to an heart of any delicacy; it sharpens the sting of ingratitude with insult, by giving a preference, that reflects dishonour. He felt it so severely, that despair made him strive to drown the sense of it in wine, in the intoxication of which, he too often was guilty of what in a cooler moment his reason would have blushed at, and his principles abhorred; which, as I observed, forced him to exert his abilities, which he did with such success, as soon enabled him to quit a profession, that had not been his choice, and at the same time indulge

the natural disposition of his heart, by practising some of the sublimest duties of it.

As soon as he awoke next day, he went to visit his new family, where the happiness that glistened in every grateful eye at his approach, made him happy. After some general chat, 'It is my duty, Sir, (said the father) to give you some account of myself, and of the cause of my falling into that depth of misery from which your beneficence relieved me, that you should not think it has been lavished on objects altogether unworthy of it.

'I am descended from a good family, the fortune of which my father dissipated in supporting a parliamentary interest for the ministry; the only return he received for which, and for his voice upon all occasions, was a small pension for himself, and a pair of colours in the guards for me his only son, with promises indeed of farther provision, which were all forgotten when he died, happily for himself before the end of the parliament, which, as he had no prospect of being returned again, would have left him at the mercy of creditors, whom it was not in his power to pay.

'Though I was soon sensible that my best hopes, died with him, I was so infatuated to a profession, the most pleasing to youthful idleness and vanity, that I laid out the little fortune of this best of women, whom I had married in my days of better hope, in the purchase of a company, in a marching regiment; at the head of which I flattered myself, that I should meet some opportunity, in the war just then broke out, of meriting further promotion. But I found the vanity of such a thought, when it was unhappily too late.

'After several years careful service, in the course of
which

which I had sealed some degree of reputation with my blood in several warm actions, without advantage to myself, or prospect of any to my family, who now multiplied the cares of life ten thousand fold upon my head, I was driven by despair to exchange my company, which I had bought, and therefore could have sold again, the price of which would at least have kept us from absolute starving, for an higher rank in a younger regiment, just then ordered upon an expedition, the object of which raised what was thought rational expectation of such profit, as should ease me from the anxieties that made life a burden.

‘Allured solely by this expectation, I went accordingly. The expedition was successful. I did my duty. I was wounded in the course of it, to the extreme danger of my life. I entirely ruined my constitution by the severity of the climate; and on my return home was reduced to half-pay, without receiving so much prize money, as defrayed the extraordinary expences of the expedition, and of the illness which I contracted in it; while those above me accumulated such wealth as if divided in any degree of proportion, would have recompensed the labours of us, who had literally borne the heat and burden of the day, and were now pining in discontent and misery, aggravated by a partiality so severely injurious.

In this situation, I resolved to throw myself at the feet of my Sovereign, and implore relief from the known goodness of his heart. But his throne was surrounded by those, whose interest it was to keep the cries of his people from coming to his ears*; and

* This reflection, notoriously so groundless, is alone sufficient to vindicate the author from any allusion to present times.

therefore, as it was necessary for me to make my errand known, I never could obtain access to him.

‘ The distress of this disappointment was still farther heightened by the delays in the discharge of that half-pay, which was now my only support; and the drawbacks it was subject to from the fees of office, even when it should come to be paid, which were such, that when I attempted to mortgage it, the wretch’s last resource to put off starving as long as he can, what I could get from those vultures, who fatten upon the sufferings of a soldier, was scarce sufficient to satisfy our present wants. How then could I look forward for a family, dearer to me than life? What could support resolution, when hope was gone? Mine was unequal to the trial; and I was beginning to meditate on putting an end to a life of such misery, without considering that the sufferings of those, for whom I felt so much more than for myself, must be still made heavier by such a base desertion of them, when heaven in its mercy visited my family with a violent fever, which freed me from farther fears for the future welfare of my three eldest sons, and with difficulty spared the two, whom you see before you. O! my poor boys! happier! three happier than us, whom you left behind! Excuse this weakness, Sir! nature will force the involuntary tear in spite of reason; for were they not the children of my love?

‘ During their illness, I lost every other care in my attendance upon them; nor omitted any possible means to preserve lives, for which my fears foreboded nothing but unhappiness; but though their deaths freed me from a part of those fears, they left a melancholy void in my heart, which was more painful, if possible, than

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my fear. But I was not long sensible of that pain. My children were scarce laid in the grave, when the fever seized myself with such violence, that I soon lost my senses, nor recovered them for above a month; and then only to feel the greatest wretchedness, that was ever heaped upon human creature.

‘The expence of my children’s, and my own illness, had not only exhausted all the money I had raised on the anticipation of my half-pay, but also obliged my wife to mortgage several of our best effects. Such a resource never escapes the watchful eyes of people who keep lodging-houses. Our landlady no sooner perceived it, than she seized upon the rest, and then turned us out, the moment I could be removed without instant death.

‘In this situation. I must have perished in the street, had not a poor woman, whom my wife had been obliged to call in to her assistance when I sickened, shared with us her habitation, in which you found us, as she also did the earnings of her daily labour, till a chairman, who was carrying a beau to a ball, threw her down with such violence, for not making haste enough out of his way, that she broke her leg, and was obliged to be taken to an hospital.

‘From that time we supported life by mortgaging the few clothes we had brought on our backs, without any ray of hope to tempt us to look forward, till they also were all gone, and the misery of cold added to that of hunger. In this condition, we had been two days without tasting bread, or feeling the warmth of fire, calling incessantly upon death to put that end to our distresses, which a sense of religion made stronger by my wretchedness, now prevented my daring to ha-

seen, when my daughter stole out unknown to us to seek for charity in the streets, where she wandered without meeting any thing but insults, and solicitations to vice, till heaven-directed your steps to her.

‘Such was the reward of more than twenty years faithful and hard service, in which I had fought the battles of my country, in the opposite extremities of the globe, with honour, and been instrumental in making princely fortunes for the several commanders under whom I served.’

‘This, Sir, is the sum of my story, in which I have been as brief as I could, to avoid giving you pain. We are now your creatures. The lives we enjoy are immediately the gift of your benevolence; a benevolence, so critically timed, (for we could not have subsisted many hours longer without it) as to raise an hope, that Providence which sent you to our relief, will not leave its work unfinished, but save us from falling again into such misery, by means agreeable to its own wisdom and goodness, though impossible for us, in our present situation, to foresee.’

It was some time before my master, who had listened to the officer’s story with sympathetic attention, was able to speak. Recovering himself at length, ‘Fear not;’ (said he, in a broken voice) ‘never was the righteous forsaken; nor—nor—nor. I have some friends, Sir, who may serve!—In the mean time take this, (reaching him a bank-note for twenty pounds) I will not be refused! business calls me for a few hours; but I will see you again in the evening.’—Saying this, he hurried away to hide his emotions without waiting for a reply, which indeed their gratitude left them not the power to make.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

CHRYSAI's master carries him to visit an old acquaintance, who behaves in character, on hearing the officer's story, and surprises CHRYSAI's master with an account of his having turned PATRIOT. The general motive for such a step; with some remarks on the difference between practice and profession, in different instances. Insignificance of private characters in attacks upon a ministry, and why. Reflections on the origin and use of SATIRE, and the abuse of the terms GOOD and ILL-NATURE, with the reason why so many cry out against satire. CHRYSAI changes his service in a common way.

THE most intimate acquaintance my master had was the person who had been competitor with a former master of mine, for admission into the higher order of THE MOCK-MONASTRY*. To him he went directly, and relating the officer's story, while it was still warm on his heart, asked his assistance to do something more effectual for his relief.

His friend was so affected with the melancholy tale, that it was some time before he could speak; but when at length he did, it was in a strain very different from what might have been expected. 'And the girl was really so pretty!' (said he, with a look of inexpressible archness) 'Well said my good Levite, I presume you satisfied your own appetites with her at the tavern, before you provided for those of her family, though you

* Vol. 3.

lunk that part of the story, for fear I should want to come in for a snack with you. The concupiscence of you parsons is truly catholic, whatever your consciences may be, and would engross the whole sex, if it was not restrained; not indeed that women come within the meaning of the Mortmain acts; as none do more good in their generation; and consequently are better represented to the state, than those who are occupied by the clergy.'

'Why, what a sensual brute must you be, (answered my master) to talk of satisfying appetites with a wretch just perishing of cold and hunger. But it is all affectation. If you had been in my place, you would have acted just as I did; for whatever airs your wicked wit may assume, I know your heart is strongly susceptible of charity.'

'Charity! Hah! hah! hah! I expected that. It is always the burden of a parson's song. They make a cloak of it upon all occasions; and indeed, if it will really cover sins, as they say, they are in the right to have it ready, for multitudes enough they have to take up every corner of it. But why can you not throw off the cant along with the cloth? However, that her hunger should not damp your desires any more, here (giving him half a dozen guineas) is my help to allay it.'

'I will not refuse your money, for your own sake, in hope that your bestowing even this much so well may help to atone for some of the thousands you have thrown away. But it was not with any view of getting it, that I spoke to you. Their immediate necessities are supplied. I want your assistance and interest.'-----

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‘ My interest! Hah! hah! hah!—You apply to a person of great interest truly. Why, my very naming them would be sufficient to ruin their hopes for ever. You don’t know perhaps, that I have turned patriot, and attacked the ministry.’

‘ Patriot! For heaven’s sake how long, and on what occasion have you taken this strange whim?’

‘ Whim! Pray, good Sir, speak with more respect of the noblest principle of the human heart. The thought came into my head the night before last; and as I do not love to lose time, especially in things of such moment, I gave it vent yesterday in the shape of a political pamphlet, in which I have proved to a demonstration, that the minister and all his friends and countrymen are fools, and rogues, and deserve to be hang’d.’—

‘ Is it possible that you can be serious! What in the name of common sense, could be your motive for taking such a step as this? I thought you had expectation of favour from them.’—

‘ What motive should any man of honour and honesty have, but the good of his country; their neglect of which has roused an indignation that will make them tremble.’

‘ Or, in other words, they have disappointed your expectations, and therefore you take this method of being revenged on them, and extorting for fear, what they would not do from favour; the general motive of modern patriots I acknowledge; but with what face you can pretend to the title, prostituted as it is, I can not think, as your very name is a burlesque upon every thing, that is serious.’—

‘ Pray, how so, Reverend and grave Sir? If the most
pre-

profligate sinner makes the best saint, as you say, why should not a moderate rake make a tolerable politician? I believe you will hardly attribute it to the superior excellence of the latter character; but the truth is, though it is impossible for me to profess political principles more contrary to my practice, than your moral practice is to your preaching, yet you would deny me the toleration which you avail yourself of, and have my words judged from my actions; not my actions from my words, as you expect your own shall be.

‘But my private character, or practice, signifies nothing to this undertaking, which is to rip up the practices and characters, public and private, of a set of people, who have obtruded themselves into a station that exposes them to envy, and every accusation against whom will therefore be received implicitly, without regarding who or what the author of it is. Not but there is sufficient room to attack those whose whole private lives have been such a continued series of vice and folly, and their public conduct of blunders and villainy, that it is impossible to say or think any thing bad enough of them, as I have already proved by ircontestible instances in my pamphlet, and shall by many more in the course of the undertaking. If the tables indeed should turn, and I get into their place, then they may make the same use of my character, and perhaps not without effect; but at present it is quite out of the question. And now that I have opened myself to you I expect your assistance, in return for my confidence.’—

‘Assistance in politics! It is not in my power to give you any. I hate from my soul, every political system under the sun, as a jumble of folly and villainy;
(I mean

(I mean as they are carried into practice; not in their speculative plans) and therefore never could throw away a thought upon them?—

‘ That signifies nothing. The assistance which I want, you are well qualified to give. While I detect their political blunders and villainy, you shall lash their private vices and follies, till we make them equally ridiculous and odious to every man of sense and virtue in the nation; a task that will give you the pleasing opportunity of indulging that misanthropy, which inspires the muse of a satirist, and is mistaken for virtue, because it sails against vice; for blazon it out as pompously as you will, nothing but ill-nature can make a man take delight in exposing the defects of others; and the more forcibly he does it, the more powerful must that principle be with him.—

‘ And by the same rule, it is good nature that makes a man fawn upon folly, and flatter vice; and consequently whoever does it, is virtuous. A most judicious way of reasoning truly! now, on the contrary, I think it a much more just conclusion, that they who treat vice with tenderness approve it in their hearts, and would practice it, if they could; and that they who expose its deformities and dangers, really detest it, though they may sometimes, through human weakness, fall into the practice. But I do not wonder at your remark; it is an old and common one. All who are conscious that they deserve the lash, desire to lessen its force; and therefore derive satire from ill nature, in order to obviate the application of it to the proper object; and fasten upon the satirist the fault which is in themselves. And this abuse of the terms good and ill nature, is the reason

reason why some have been provoked to call the former folly.

‘But not to waste time in discussions, where prejudice only can find a doubt, I agree to your proposal with pleasure, and will hold folly up to ridicule, and brand vice to detestation, wherever you point them out to me, without regard to the rank or power of the person; or to any imputations of misanthropy and ill-nature, which may be levelled at myself, to shield against and blunt the edge of my satire; though I no more expect that I shall be able to reform the moral, than you the political conduct of the age. However, it is a duty to make the attempt, be the success what it will. But, by the bye, are you not apprehensive, that your undertaking may be attended with danger? The people in power will certainly be provoked; and power, you know, has long arms, and will often reach over the fences of law.’

‘I fear them not! I have friends who are able, and will defend the laws in me, while I keep within their fence; one of the principal of whom I expect every minute to call upon me, to communicate matter, and to consult upon another stroke.’

‘Then I’ll take my leave. You’ll have things to talk about, which you will not desire me to hear. Conspirators against the state always chuse privacy.’

‘Conspirators against the state! Our conspiracy, if such you call it, is for the state, against its worse enemies, traitors to the trust reposed in them; all fools to their own true interest, as members of the community.’

‘All this I’ll grant; and yet it is well, if they do not find means to make themselves pass for the state,

and of course, you for the traitors against it. They who have the power, can easily assume the name.'

As he said this, a servant brought his friend a note, who upon casting his eye over it, 'The gentleman I expected (said he) writes me word that he is not very well this morning, and therefore desires to see me at his house. If you are going my way, I'll set you down.'

'I thank you! (answered my master) But my ambition does not rise so high as that yet. I do not aspire to a pillory, or a prison, even in the cause of my country. Shall we see you at dinner?'-----

'Most certainly! but hold. Can you give me change for this note? I have not time to call upon my banker.'-----

'I believe I can; but then it must be with the help of what you yourself have given me for the officer; like other bankers, who make a parade of taking in charitable subscriptions, at the same time that they support their credit with the money.'

'That's right! I'll mention him to the person I am going to. He has abilities to serve him effectually; and I am satisfied never wants inclination to do a generous action.'---My master then gave him the change of his note, among which I was, and took his leave.

CHAP. III.

CHRYSAL sums up the character of his late master. Different opinions for and against the propriety and benefit of SATIRE. The former supported by good authority. Reason of some inconveniencies attending the indulgence of such a turn. Character of CHRYSAL's new master concluded from a former sketch. He waits upon his Patron. Character of him, with his motive for such patronage. He gives striking reasons for objecting to some parts of CHRYSAL's master's pamphlet, which the other makes some weak attempts to vindicate. CHRYSAL's master enjoys the pleasure of tracing his own fame.

THE peculiar character of my late master made me feel regret at leaving his service till I should see more of him. His abilities did honour to the age and country in which he lived; and the exalted sentiments of virtue, which broke from him spontaneously, in the genuine effusions of his soul, gave sufficient reason to judge, that his conduct would be entirely ruled by it, and his talents exerted in the more pleasing and extensive way of recommending it to imitation, by displaying all its advantages and charms, as soon as time should cool the fervour of his passions, and apply its lenient balsam to the sores in his heart, the smart of which first gave him that poignant turn, and drove him for relief to excesses that too often drowned his better reason, and led him into actions, which in a cooler moment

ment he abhorred. In a word, his failings were the luxuriance of nature, as his virtues were her perfection.

As I have said that he turned his poetical vein particularly to satire, I see your curiosity to know my opinion of the propriety, and benefit of that manner of applying the powers of wit. But I have often told you, that I am not permitted to determine controverted points. Many with a plausible appearance of good-nature decry it, as proceeding from a malevolence of disposition, and tending only to spread the influence of bad example by making it known, and harden people in vices they might forsake, if not made desperate by detection! Many with an appearance of virtuous indignation vindicate it, as terrifying from vice, by shewing it in its native deformity, and correcting folly, by putting it out of countenance; which latter opinion is supported by the authority of one of the most sensible and best men of his age*.

But still the indulgence of this turn is attended with many inconveniencies and dangers, if it be not guided with the greatest care. That imaginary superiority, which the power of making another ridiculous or detested flatters a man with, is so pleasing to the self-love inseparable from human nature, that it requires uncommon moderation to refrain from exercising it upon improper occasions, and makes him presumptuously con-

* Would the anachronism admit the supposition, the editor should imagine that the author here meant the writer of **LETTERS FROM A PERSIAN IN ENGLAND, &c.** whose words are these, 'If all the edge of wit is turned on those who are justly the objects of ridicule, Wit is as great a benefit to **PRIVATE LIFE**, as the sword of the magistrate is to **PUBLIC.** Letter 40.-----

clude, that whatever happens to displease himself in any particular, is a just object of public ridicule and censure. An error, into which the impetuosity of my late master sometimes hurried him.

I have given you a sketch of the character of my new master upon a former occasion †; to which I have only to add here, that a wanton abuse of uncommon abilities inverted the end for which they were given, making them disgraceful to himself, and dangerous to his country, a licentious pursuit of every thing called pleasure having wasted his fortune, and driving him to the despicable necessity of prostituting them to any purpose; that might promise to retrieve his affairs.

The gentleman, whom he went to wait upon the morning I came into his possession, was one who had served his king and country with fidelity and success, while he was permitted to follow the dictates of his own reason in their service; but gave up the empty and disgraceful appearance of acting in it any longer, on finding his judgment disregarded, and himself designed to be made only a cypher, to increase the consequence of another.

The indignation, however, which had prompted him to take this step, led him not into those unjustifiable lengths, which are too common on such occasions. He was faithful to his Sovereign, though he had lost his favour; and watched attentively over the interests of his country, though he was not permitted to promote them. The only instance in which his conduct could possibly be censured was his patronizing such a man as my master. But it is a maxim in human politicks, that the end justifies the means, be they what they will. He

† Vol. III.

wanted

wanted to be restored to his former power; and thought this man's exposing the insufficiency of those who had supplanted him in it, the most likely way to effect that purpose.

To this desire of power he was not stimulated by the usual method of repairing a ruined fortune, or making a new family. His wealth exceeded his very wishes, and he already enjoyed the highest honours he could aspire to: all he proposed was the glory of his Sovereign, and the advantage of his country, which that enthusiastic ambition, from whence proceed the greatest actions, made him think himself the most capable, and wish to be the happy instrument of promoting.

By this gentleman, my master was received with that civility which is commonly mistaken for esteem. After some general chat on the occurrences and humour of the times, in which my master modestly took to himself the merit of the peoples discontent at the ministry and their measures, as raised solely by his pamphlet, 'I allow the good effects of it (said the gentleman) and greatly approve the principles upon which it is written; but I much fear that your zeal has transported you too far. You should of all things have avoided involving the master in your charge against the ministers; because that alone can give them any advantage against you, and is therefore what they always feign, however unjustly, when they are attacked in order to screen themselves behind him. Beside, the character of a Sovereign is sacred, and should never be treated but with the highest respect; especially when the virtues of the man are such as would be respectable in any character.'

Such disapprobation from his principal patron greatly disappointed my master, who was so little acquaint-

ed with his sentiments, as to think he bore resentment against his Sovereign for the loss of his favour, as well as against those who had deprived him of it, and consequently would be pleased with any thing, that might seem to reflect disgrace upon him.

Recovering himself however, before his embarrassment was perceived, 'I imagined (answered he, with his usual presence of mind) that it was impossible to accuse me of disrespect to one, whom I have studiously sought every occasion of praising. As for what you take notice of my charge is not personally against him, but through him against those who had the baseness and insolence to abuse his goodness and confidence in such a manner; so that I think it is impossible to wrest it to the purpose you apprehend.'---

'I wish you may not be mistaken; but much fear that your argument will not have the weight you expect. Praise given with an air of irony is the keenest insult; beside, in this particular case, the praises you bestow upon his goodness are all at the expence of his understanding. However, do not be dispirited at what cannot now be helped. As I think your intention was not in fault, you may depend upon my countenance and support, let what will happen.'

This comfortable assurance restored my master to his former spirits: not desiring however to continue the conversation any longer upon that subject, 'I have this morning (said he) made no inconsiderable addition to our force. My friend, the poet, whose turn for satire I have heard you so much admire, has promised me to exert all his powers in our cause. He will attack the faults in their private, while I expose their public characters, and experience has shewn that it is easy to over-

turn

turn the minister, when the man is made ridiculous, or odious?—

‘The former I’ll grant you; but we have too many instances in contradiction to the latter, to build much upon it. However, his powers are great, and may do much, if he will take care to avoid the rock upon which you have fallen; and therefore I shall be glad to attach him seriously to us, especially as he does not seem to be utterly void of virtue, notwithstanding the libertinism of his conduct in some instances.’

My master would not miss so favourable an opportunity of doing justice to the character of his friend. Accordingly he related the story of the distresses of the officer and his family, and his generosity to them, in so affecting a manner, that the gentleman directly gave him a considerable sum of money for their present relief, with a promise of providing for them himself, if he could not prevail with those in power to do it.

Pleased with a success which he knew would be so pleasing to his friend, my master took leave of his patron, and set out to trace his own fame from one coffee-house to another, and enjoy the applauses, which the popularity and boldness of his attempt, procured him from the multitude wherever he went; after which he repaired to his usual haunt, where he dined, and spent the evening, in his usual manner.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

CHRYSAL's master receives an unwelcome visit, at an unseasonable time. His extraordinary behaviour before his superiors. He is sent to prison. CHRYSAL makes some unpopular remarks, on certain interesting subjects. Consequences of his master's imprisonment, with an account of his behaviour in it.

CONFIDENT as my master was of his safety, he soon found that the fears of his patron were too just. He had scarce laid him down to sleep, when his bed was surrounded, and himself made a prisoner, by a number of fellows, who, under the sanction of authority, committed all the outrages of lawless ruffians, breaking open his locks, rifling his effects, and searching into all his secrets.

It was in vain for him to expostulate with such people against so flagrant injustice, or claim the protection of the laws. They derided him, and all he could say; and having finished their work, dragged him away with insults and abuse, to a magistrate, where he had the comfort of waiting a considerable time in such agreeable company, before his worship was at leisure to see him.

But this, though designed as an indignity, was of real advantage to him, as it gave him time to recover his spirits, and collect his presence of mind for an interview of such importance. Accordingly, when at length he was admitted to the dread tribunal, instead of shewing any dejection at the danger which seemed to hang over him,
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ADVENTURES OF A GUINEA.

he behaved in a manner worthy of a better man in a better cause. He asserted the violation of the rights of his person, with so much resolution, and appearance of reason, and returned the insolence of office with such contempt, answering illusively to the insidious questions put to him, and boldly demanding that right of being restored to his liberty, which was assured to every individual of the community by the essential principles of the constitution, that his judges were startled, and more than once wished they had left him unmolested.

However, as there was no receding now, they concluded it to be their best way to go through with what they had begun, and bear down opposition with an high hand; with which intent they sent him directly to prison, in defiance to all he could say, where he was treated with uncommon severity, and the method which the law provided for his being restored to liberty eluded as long as possible, by finesses which power only could support.

I see your indignation at such an infringement of laws procured by the blood of myriads, and established by the most solemn engagements human and divine, for the security of the common rights of mankind. The part which every man feels in such sufferings, on a supposition that they may possibly one day fall upon himself, naturally interests you, as it did the multitude, in my master's cause. But when you come to examine coolly the manner of his being taken into confinement, which is what gives you such offence, it will not appear so contrary to reason and justice, the foundation, and as I may say, soul of all laws, as popular opinion may presume.

All power is delegated from the people for the mutual

tual advantage of governors and governed. To support the use, and prevent the abuse of that power, laws are established by the consent of both, which are to be the rule of their actions. But as it is impossible for human wisdom to foresee and provide for every occurrence that may happen, there is essentially implied in the first trust a further power of applying unprovided remedies to unforeseen cases, for the safety and advantage of the whole.

If it be objected, that these remedies may sometimes be injurious to individuals, by being injudiciously or wrongfully applied, the answer is obvious. The sufferings of a few, are not to be set in competition with the safety of the many. Beside, if the remedies were never to be applied, where there was a possibility of a mistake, the evil might happen, in the time necessary for enquiry and deliberation. For, though penal laws are design'd only to prevent future by the punishment of past crimes; yet where such crimes, if committed, will exceed the reach of punishment, and defeat the laws, the power of prevention must be exerted earlier to anticipate them before commission.

Without such a power, the trust of government would be imperfect, and inadequate to the end; as if no punishment could be inflicted thus for prevention, but by prescribed forms, human ingenuity, ever most fertile in evil, would devise expedients to evade it, till perpetration should secure impunity, as I said before, perhaps to the ruin of the state.

For these reasons, an extraordinary power must have been implicitly given for extraordinary cases; or the good of the community, which is the end of government, cannot be obtained. If this power though should be

be abused, the sacred spirit of the laws of your happy country will supply the inevitable defect of the latter, and grant redress to the sufferer, when a proper time comes for enquiring into the circumstances of the case; a redress which was not provided by the people *, the most jealous of their liberties of any who ever united themselves into civil society, who, sensible of the necessity of such a resource, made it a fundamental rule of their government, on any occasions of uncommon difficulty or danger, to intrust the whole power into the hands of some one person whom they called **DICTATOR**, as his word was to be the law, without subjecting him to controul in the use, or account for the abuse of it, when his power should be at an end.

As soon as my master's imprisonment was known, the populace all took fire. They made his cause their own. They looked upon him as a martyr in the darling cause of liberty. They insulted all government, and committed excesses every hour, infinitely more illegal and dangerous to liberty, than that of which they complained.

In the mean time, his confinement was far from sitting so heavy upon him as might have been expected. Though he wanted the approbation of his own mind, and the enthusiasm of the principles he professed, to support his resolution, and encourage him to look forward with hope, levity of temper supplied the place of that resolution, and saved him from sinking under misfortunes, by making him insensible of their weight. He rallied his jailors, mimicked his judges, cracked jests upon his own undoing, and turned every circumstance into ridicule, with such drollery and unconcern,

* The Romans.

as if he was acting the imaginary sufferings of another, not actually suffering himself. How long he would have been able to support that spirit though came not to be tried.

CHAP. V.

CHRYSAL's master is visited in prison by his patron; and from what motives. His conduct on being set at liberty, and the consequences of it. Remarkable grounds on which he was set at liberty, with a conjecture at the reason of fixing upon them. CHRYSAL makes an enquiry into certain matters, much talked of, and little understood.

AS soon as his friends obtained access to him (for the great severity of his confinement was the uncommon strictness of it) his patron went to see him. As I have taken notice of his disapprobation of what had brought my master into this scrape, you are surprized at his taking a step that seemed so inconsistent with his character. But his motives for it did honour to the man, however strange they may appear in the politician. He had admitted him to a degree of personal intimacy. He had approved of his engaging in a cause, to which he was himself attached most sanguinely, and he scorned to desert him in distress, occasioned by what he thought an error of his judgment, not a fault of his intention.

Beside the consolation to himself, the honour of such a visit was of the greatest advantage to my master's affairs; as it lightened the personal prejudice against

him, and gave a good opinion of a cause, which appeared to have the countenance of such a man.

Intoxicated with the popularity he had thus acquired, which if rightly managed might have done great matters, he was no sooner at liberty, than he threw off all restraint, and ran into such licentiousness, as in a short time lessened its force, and lost him every trace of the good opinion of all who gave themselves time to think of the causes and consequences of such conduct. But his triumph was not long-lived.

He had been restored to his liberty, not as a right common to all the members of the community, on a supposition of the illegality of the manner in which he had been deprived of it; but in consequence of certain immunities, annexed to a particular part of the legislature, to which he belonged.

Though the abilities and integrity of the magistrate who made this distinction were unquestionable, some persons who looked farther than the present moment, imagined they could trace it to a cause not commonly attended to. He had on former occasions been instrumental in depriving some people of liberty in the same manner: to have condemned that manner therefore now, as illegal, would have been condemning himself; at the same time, that upright obedience to the dictates of his present opinion, obliged him to set him free. Such a difficulty must have been distressing; but this distinction delivered him from it; and enabled him to save his credit and conscience both; as those people had bore no part in the legislature, and therefore had not been entitled to such immunity.

I see your indignation arise at the thought, that in a country which boasts of being governed by equal

laws, any one set of men should enjoy immunities, denied to the rest; but that indignation proceeds from viewing the matter in a partial light. In the country where your lot has happily fallen, the end of government is better secured by a division of its powers, than in any other under heaven. The great wisdom of those who made this division, appears in the provisions made to preserve each part in it, independent of the rest, the only means by which the division itself could be preserved.

Now as the executive power necessarily belongs solely to the prince, it was equally necessary to secure those who bore a part with him in the legislative, from any undue execution of that power which might be attempted in order to break through that independence, and join the legislative to the executive; or in other words, vest both powers absolutely, and without limitation in the prince. And this was the reason of immunities, so much talked of, and so little understood.

If it be said, that these immunities operate also against fellow subjects, from whom there can be no such fear, and are sometimes (perhaps too often) abused to dishonest ends, the answer must be sought for in the depravity of the human heart, which will pervert the best institutions to the worst purposes, and make it necessary to preclude every exception, that it should not be extended to serve them. As for instance, if the meanest subject of the state had a right to claim the assistance of the civil power in every case, against any member of the legislature, while in his legislative capacity, that right might be subverted, or feigned by the executive power, in such a manner, as to overturn his independency, and prevent his discharging the trust committed to him:

him: for which reason, it is better that an individual should suffer (to suppose the worst) than an opportunity be given for ruining the whole community; according to the known maxim, that an evil (which affects but one), is preferable to an inconvenience (which affects many.) And this immunity, which is really the shield and safety of the state, can never be invaded, but from a design against the liberty of the state, nor absolutely given up, without giving up that liberty along with it; though the right may be waved in particular instances, which appear unworthy of the benefit of it. To actions criminal in their own nature, between individuals, or immediately dangerous to the state, it was never designed to be extended, as in such cases it would have been destructive of the end for which it was instituted.

While my master was running riot in this extravagant manner, some things happened which raised in his favour the indignation and pity of many who disliked the man, and disapproved his proceedings, because they saw him persecuted by unjustifiable means.

It may well be imagined, that I did not remain long enough in his possession, to see the conclusion of this affair; but as I had ample opportunity of being acquainted with it at the time, and see that your curiosity is interested in the event, I will continue the account here; especially as the principal occurrences in my next service, were connected with it in so particular a manner, that it is necessary to explain one in order to understand the other.

C H A P. VI.

CHRYSAL's master takes a foreign tour. Remarks upon national reflections, and attacks upon private characters. CHRYSAL's master is called to an account for certain improper liberties, by a very improper person, whom he treats with uncommon propriety. CHRYSAL makes some out-of-the-way reflections on a question much canvassed to little purpose.

WHEN my master had in some measure exhausted the first flow of his spirits upon the recovery of his liberty, he made a short excursion abroad, as if merely for amusement, but in reality to provide a place of retreat, in case of the worst, as his apprehensions could not but be alarmed, whenever he allowed himself time to think. I have observed that in the account he gave my late master when he first told him of his attack upon the minister, he said he had included in it all his countrymen. This he really had done on that, and continued to do, on all other occasions, with a licentiousness unexampled; but which lost its force, and became contemptible, by sinking into ferocity.

Attacks upon private characters, unless forced by necessity, or designed to serve good purposes, such as personal reformation, or caution to others, are literally abuse, and proceed always from a bad heart; but national reflections, as they can answer no good purpose of any kind, are abuse in every sense, and proceed equally from folly and malevolence. A folly indeed that is often punished by fools, who take to themselves that abuse,

abuse, which belongs not to them in particular, and would pass by without fighting upon them, if not applied thus by themselves.

My master had not been long abroad, when a countryman of the ministers thought proper to call him to account for the liberties he had taken with his country. The absurdity of such a step in any man was still aggravated by the peculiar circumstances of this person, who had actually given weight to the severest part of the charge against his country, (indeed the only part that would admit of weight, the rest being, as I have said, nothing but scurrility) by engaging in the service of the enemies of its present government, and fighting their battles against it. Such an antagonist therefore was beneath the notice of any man of reason, and accordingly was treated so by my master, who on this occasion behaved with a moral propriety and prudence, much above the tenor of his general character. But his enemies beheld his conduct in a different light, and attributed to cowardice what was really the effect of courage.

You seem surprized at my saying that his declining to fight was the effect of courage! but reflect a moment, and you will see that it is the motive of fighting, and not the mere fighting that constitutes true courage; and that the fashionable courage of venturing life for punctilios of imaginary honour is real cowardice, as it proceeds solely from fear of the false censure of the world; and therefore, that to brave that censure in such cases is the highest courage.

I would not be understood by this to declare absolutely against a man's fighting in his own cause, in all cases indiscriminately. Different circumstances mak-

an essential difference in things which superficially appear to be alike. A man's venturing his life, as I have said in vindicating empty punctilios of imaginary honour, or in support of injustice, is the highest and most ingrateful insult to the author of that life, who has made the preservation of it the first principle of action, and consequently an indispensable duty, when it can be preserved without violation of those greater duties, which he has thought proper to prescribe.

But as there are other things more valuable than life, because without them life would lose its value, reason, which is the voice of heaven, permits to hazard the lesser good for the preservation of the greater, and this is the justification of war between different states.

To prevent the evils which such a recourse between individuals in the same state must be attended with, laws are established to preserve those rights, and redress injuries, which they may offer to each other; to these laws therefore, it is an indispensable duty to recur for such redress and preservation, where they are able to effect them: but this duty does not seem to extend so far as absolutely and indiscriminately to preclude the other method of a man's striving at the hazard of his life to effect them himself, when the laws cannot do it, as is too often the case, it being impossible for human wisdom to make provision for every occurrence, which in the complication and extensiveness of human action may require it.

An opinion, so contrary to that professed by all, who have undertaken to discuss this subject, however consonant to the sense of mankind in general, as shewn in their practice, should be supported by the plainest and most convincing reasons.

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A good name is the immediate jewel of the soul; it is the first fruit and the reward of virtue: the preservation of it therefore is indisputably worth hazarding life for, where the laws have not sufficiently provided for its defence; as is the case in many of the most delicate and tender points. If a man for instance is unjustly accused of a fact that ruins his good name, at the same time that the accusation comes not within the reach of any law from which he may receive redress, can reason say, that he is not justifiable in striving for that redress himself, and vindicating his good name at the hazard of his life, when that life would be only misery without it?

But here another difficulty occurs. Shall a man, it is said, put himself upon a level with his injurer, and risque a second injury, in seeking satisfaction for the first? This certainly is an evil, but must be submitted to, to prevent a greater.

If a man were permitted to redress himself absolutely without such a risque, the consequence would be, that partiality to himself would make him think every thing that should displease him an injury sufficient to merit such a redress, whereby murders would be multiplied to the reproach of humanity, and ruin of the state. But where this risque makes the redress attended with danger, people are cautious not to run into it, but on what they at least think good grounds.

Beside risking life in an even scale is in some manner staking it upon the justice of the cause, and appealing to heaven for decision; and consequently success clears the character in general estimation; whereas killing insidiously, or without equal risque, only confirms the first charge, on a presumption of consciousness, and

and aggravates it with the weight of new guilt. And this was the sense of mankind, till the remedy was perverted to such an excess as to become worse than the evil, and therefore necessary to be abolished, as far as human laws can abolish a general principle of action.

One particular though in the laws made to abolish it deserves remark; as it shews a striking instance of the sagacity with which human laws are often made. Killing a man, in a deliberate duel, be the cause ever so important, and utterly unprovided for in the law, is accounted murder, and made capitally criminal; but killing in a drunken broil, or ungoverned gust of passion, is only a pardonable offence, and called by the softer name of man-slaughter! Now if the makers of that law had but considered which action proceeded from the worst cause, and was liable to be attended with the worst consequences, from the possible frequency of it, they might perhaps have seen reason to reverse the case, and made the latter capital, and the former at least pardonable.

In a word, he who takes away the life of another, or loses his own, in a trivial or unjust cause, or where the laws of his country have provided him redress, is guilty of murder; whereas he who kills, or is killed in a cause of real importance, for which there is no remedy provided him by the law, sins not against the spirit of that law, however he may against the letter; and consequently seems to be intitled to an immunity from the penalties of it. This reasoning though respects only the reason of the law, and is by no means laid down as a rule for practice; it being the indispensable duty of a subject to obey the plain letter of the law, without presuming to oppose his private opinion to it, otherwise

otherwise than by humble application to proper authority to have it altered.

CH A P. VII.

CHRYSAL's master's late conduct draws him into a new scrape, in which he comes off but second best. He takes advantage of his misfortune, to make his escape from a greater. He suffers the resentment of his enemies, as far as they can reach him, and meets from his friends the fate of all useless tools, after having served them with improbable success. A striking instance of the advantage of an upright judge, and equal laws. CHRYSAL changes his service.

THE opinion, that my master's having behaved in this manner proceeded from a want of spirit, soon laid him under a necessity of shewing the contrary. A person who was involved deeper than he chose to appear, in his accusations against the minister, though he was known to be his creature, thought he might safely invalidate the credit of the charge, and curry farther favour with his patron, by denying it in terms of such abuse as should make the accuser infamous, on submitting to them as he imagined he would.

But in this he found himself mistaken. The captiousness of false honour, that often passes for true resolution, which is only the result of virtue, was now piqued; and two beings (for it was impossible for the other to draw back) who called themselves rational, hazarded their lives in support of what neither could have supported by reason.

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The event proved immediately unfavourable to my master, who received a wound, that for some time seemed to threaten his life. But he soon thought the danger amply made amends for, by the pretence it gave him to put off from time to time the resentment of that part of the legislature to which he belonged, for the offence which had occasioned his being confined, and at length to fly from it, when he found it could not be any longer prevented by such finesses, from bursting on his head. Such a flight was an implicit acknowledgment of his guilt. He was therefore deprived of his part in the legislature, and consequently of all the immunities annexed to it, and given up to the common course of the laws, for that and other matters, whenever he should be found within the reach of their power. Nor was this all! to shew still stronger disapprobation of his conduct, the breach of those immunities, upon which the magistrate had founded his discharge from confinement, was overlooked, and such offences as his excluded from their protection for the future.

You cannot be surpris'd at his meeting such a fate. The tools of a statesman, however successful they may have been, are always thrown aside with neglect, the moment they have done their work; but when they fail, however blamelessly, or run into any error, though only from excess of zeal, the weight of the neglect is made still heavier, by heaping all the blame upon them. But what will you think, when I tell you, that unequal as he must appear to have been to such an attempt, in consequence, character and abilities, he rais'd so threatening a storm, that the minister thought proper to retire out of its way; as all his friends apprehended they should have been obliged to follow him; a success, for
which

which he was in a great measure indebted to the assistance of my late master, who represented their private characters in such colours, in his satirical writings, as will make their memories pay a dear price for their power, the poetical merits of his works, in which their names are branded with indelible infamy, ensuring their immortality. Such is the basis upon which statesmen found their greatness; and so easily is a jealous populace led away, by any thing that flatters their present humour.

I say not this, as deciding upon the merits of the disputes in which he was concerned. I think too meanly of human politicks in general, to give my opinion in favour of any one scheme of them, in preference to another. They are all alike a jumble of villainy, and blunders. All I intend is, to shew on what a sandy foundation men who value themselves upon their wisdom, wear out their lives in anxious toils and dangers, to build their hopes; and what unworthy means are often made use of to overturn them, and work ends, reputed great, on purpose perhaps to humble man in his own eyes.

As for my master, he was no sooner removed out of the sight of the mob, whose idol he had been in such an extravagant degree, than he was entirely out of their mind, and the storm he had raised subsided so totally, as to leave no other trace behind it but his ruin.

I have observed your anxiety, to know whether he ever obtained redress for the injustice done him in his property; and the injurious treatment he received when he was first apprehended, as I said that the fellows employed to take him, had under the sanction of authority, committed all the outrages of lawless ruffians. The interest

terest you take in the cause of such a man, can arise from nothing but your love of justice, which should not be violated in the person of the most unjust. It will therefore give you pleasure to be informed, that the laws of your country never shone with brighter lustre, than in this instance.

In despite of every artifice and effort which power and chicane could make use of to evade, or intimidate from the execution of them, (a striking instance of the latter of which was depriving his patron of every degree of power and honour, of which he could be deprived without regard to his great services and personal consequence, only for appearing in his cause) an able and upright magistrate supported them with such resolution and judgment, that he obtained exemplary redress for all he had suffered that could be redressed, as did several others who had been involved in the same circumstances, as having been employed by him.

In gratification to your curiosity, I have thus given you the general heads of his story. To have dwelt on the minuter circumstances, however curious in themselves, would have led me too great a length, beside that they come not within my design, as I was not directly in his possession when they happened. To return therefore now to the regular chain of my own adventures, I must go back to the time of my leaving his service, which was not very long after he had been released from his confinement.

Among the crouds that came to congratulate him upon this event, was a clergyman, whose professions of personal attachment, and respect for his principles and abilities, were strained to such a fulsome height, as would have disgusted vanity itself.

My master saw through him directly, and played him off with humour peculiar to himself, till he concluded with telling him, that he had a work then in hand, upon the same scheme with his, which he intended to publish by subscription.

My master, who knew the man, took the hint, in the proper light of a modest way of begging, and clapped a couple of guineas into his hand, desiring to be inserted in his list, upon which occasion I left his service.

CHAP. VIII.

Reason of the joy with which CHRYSAL was received by his new master. Account of a curious, though not uncommon way of getting a living. Conversation between CHRYSAL's master and his guest. They compare notes on their different attempts in the literary trade. CHRYSAL's master is encouraged by his friend from his own example. A remarkable account of a certain matter, that made much noise.

THE joy my new master felt on the receipt of so small a sum, shewed the consequence it was of to him. He thanked his benefactor in terms of rapture, and vowing eternal gratitude and attachment to him, and his cause, departed with an happy heart. Nor was his joy without cause. He had invited an acquaintance to sup and spend the evening with him, and had neither money nor credit to provide any thing for his entertainment.

Despicable as the vanity of making invitations in such circumstances may appear to you, it was one of

his chief resources, to support himself and his family; as he never invited any, but such as he expected to borrow much more from than it cost him to entertain them.

Your indignation at the mention of so mean a shift, shews your happy ignorance of the ways of this populous place, in which there are numbers who keep up a decency of external appearance, and support life only by this method of raising contributions on their acquaintances, spending with one, what they have got from another, in order to get from him too, and so on; with this difference only from common beggars, that they seldom apply to the same person twice, and instead of praying for their benefactors with an appearance of gratitude, wherever they meet them, avoid their company, and are always seeking for new acquaintances, as quarry for them to prey upon.

On this errand he had sallied out this morning, but met with such bad success, that he had been obliged to have recourse to the subscription scheme, an addition which he had lately made to his former plan. His joy therefore at my late master's generosity was but natural. He returned home in high spirits, and giving his wife half his prize to provide two or three nice little things, secured me for future contingencies.

Every thing being thus adjusted, his guest, who came punctually at the appointed time, was received with all the formalities and airs of politeness of high life. The conversation before, and at supper, ran on the usual topics of the weather, politics, and the secret history of the day; but when my master's lady had withdrawn, and he saw his friend began to palate his wine with pleasure, (for he never made his pass, till the heart was warm)

sternly) he took occasion from some modest mention the other made of his munificence in the relief of merit in distress, to lament his own inability to indulge that darling pleasure of his soul, as a proper introduction to his business.

‘ I have wondered with much concern (answered his friend) at your languishing so long in this obscurity. It is all your own fault. Why do you not exert yourself! There is nothing which spirit and diligence cannot conquer.’—

‘ Very true, my dearest friend!’ (replied my master with a shrug of his shoulders, and an heavy sigh) ‘ But what can diligence or abilities either do, when they cannot find employment. I have offered myself to ministry and opposition, to booksellers and news-writers, and all to no purpose: though indeed if it was not for the assistance of one of the latter, who now and then takes an essay, or a letter from me, I should be utterly at a loss. So that what can I do?—

‘ What! why any thing rather than be idle. If one thing won’t do, another may. There is not an article in the trade, which I have not tried in my time, I made bibles, magazines, and reviews; sermons, ballads, and dying speeches; and though all failed, I never lost my spirit. The miscarriage of one scheme only set my invention at work to strike out another. No man can have greater difficulties to struggle with, than I had: and yet you see I have got over them all.’—

‘ Yes! but my dearest friend, you had advantages! the countenance and assistance of such a patron as your’s.’—

‘ Were just as great advantages to me, as your patron’s are to you; and no more. I had the honourable

advantage of leading a bear, for a bit of bread; and betraying his secrets to his father and mother, for the hope of a church-living, which I should not have got at last; but that it was not worth selling.'-----

'You astonish me! Don't you owe all your preferments, all your affluence, to the interest of your patron.'-----

'What I owe my preferments to is not necessary to mention; but my affluence I owe to a very different cause. The detection of that impostor was the thing that made my fortune, I might have remained in my original poverty to this day, if it had not been for that.'-----

'For that! Is it possible! I cannot conceive that the profits upon the sale of a pamphlet or two, (and that not a very extensive sale neither) could do such great things. My novel, I thought, bade as fair for a good run as any thing: it was seasoned high to the taste of the times, and yet it did very little more than pay.'-----

'The sale! Hah! hah! hah! No, no! I did not depend upon that. My profit came in another way entirely.'-----

'What can be your meaning! If it be not too great a secret, I should be much obliged to you to explain this matter. It may possibly be of service to me.'

'Why, on that account, and as I think I can depend upon your honour, I don't much care if I do. If you are so much surprized at my saying that I made my fortune by that pamphlet, what will you think when I tell you farther, that I never wrote one line of it, nor was I any more concerned in the sale than you, who knew nothing of the matter? But not to perplex you

you with guessing at what it is impossible you should ever discover! You can be no stranger to the noise that impostor made when he first came here. While he did no more than tell his own story, it was thought by his old fraternity to be the best way not to give it consequence by contradicting it, but let it die away of itself; besides, that possibly it might not have been so easy to contradict it to any effect, while the persons concerned were all living, and the facts fresh in every one's memory. But when he went so far as to attack the whole body, and was evidently undermining the foundation upon which they stood, by tearing off the veil of antiquity behind which they hid themselves, and exposing all their mystery to light, the matter became more serious, and it was judged necessary to ruin his character in order to invalidate the credit of his work, the merit of which made a direct attack not only difficult, but also too doubtful of success to hazard an affair of such importance upon it.

For this reason heaven and hell were conjured up, and every engine set at work to prove his story of himself false in every particular, and make him appear the most complicated villain that ever existed. But the credit of those who made this attack upon him, was too low for it to have any effect, as their principles, and the interested motives upon which they proceeded, were sufficiently known; so that it only did him service, by shewing his consequence.

While they were considering how to repair this defeat, necessity suggested to me the lucky thought of offering them my assistance. I had already got some degree of credit by anticipating time in the detection of two silly impostures, the absurdity of which would soon

have discovered them without my help. This gave weight to my offer: accordingly, they readily embraced it; and desiring only the sanction of my name, (for which you may judge I was well paid) took all the trouble upon themselves.

‘The reasons which defeated them, assisted me. Every thing I was thought to say carried weight, as appearing to proceed from the highest candour and attachment to truth, as nothing else could naturally be supposed to have made me take such pains to detect an imposture, so favourable to the principles I professed myself. The public also had got enough of his story, and was ready to listen to one against him. The consequence you know. His character was ruined with the public; and of course a prejudice raised against his work, which ruined that also, without the trouble of a regular confutation, which as I observed before, might not have been an easy matter: and now I hope the mystery is explained to you.’—

CHAP. IX.

CHRYSAL's master makes some striking remarks on his friend's account of this mysterious transaction, and draws inferences from it, not commonly attended to. He entertains his friend with a curious song, who makes an important bit, just in his own character, upon it. CHRYSAL's master boggles a little at first, at his friend's proposal, but is encouraged by his example to undertake it.

‘I AM much obliged to you, for such a proof of your confidence, (returned my master) particularly as it clears

up

tip some points to me, which I own gave me equal concern and surprize; and of which delicacy prevented my desiring an explanation from you. These were the manner in which that attack was made upon him, and the arguments and proofs brought in support of it, which were so unfair, inconclusive, and in many instances contradictory, that I was astonished any man of sense and honesty could make use of, or be influenced by them.'

'Why, that is very true. Their zeal often overshot the mark to be sure. But that signified nothing. Set the public once upon the scent of scandal; and they'll hunt it like blood-hounds, through thick and thin. Nothing can be so gross as to stop them. You may as well whistle to the wind to change its course, as speak reason to the people, when they have conceived a prejudice.—'

'But what is your opinion of that affair? Is he, or is he not, the impostor they would make him? For I confess, the arguments by which they would prove him one, are so far from answering their design with me, that I think they prove the contrary, by proving nothing; as it is natural to conclude, that if there were any better, such would not have been made use of. But you certainly must have had sufficient opportunities of being informed, in the intercourse you necessarily had with them.'—

'As to that I know no more of the matter than you do, nor ever gave myself the trouble to enquire. All the intercourse I had with them, was only to save appearances, and get my money. Whether he was an impostor or not, was the same thing to me, I was paid for seeming

seeming to prove him one; and that was all I cared for.'

'But you continue to call him one still. Do they also pay you for that now?'---

'No. I do that for my own credit. Were I to retract, all the scandal that has been heaped upon him in my name, would revert upon myself, so that whenever I mention him, I am obliged to do it in the old phrase. I know some squeamish people would have scrupled the whole; but that is not my way of thinking. I hold nothing to be so great a reproach as poverty, nor any thing a sin that can get over it. And so here's my service to you. I wish you could hit upon such another opportunity.'

'And if I would scruple to make use of it, may I perish in my present poverty; and I defy the devil to find an heavier curse.'

The conversation then turned to more general topics, in the course of which, my late master naturally coming to be mentioned, 'That's right (said my master) I have something to shew you that will give you pleasure. You may remember I told you, that I am sometimes obliged to a printer of my acquaintance for helping me to a job, in the letter or essay way. Happening to call upon him this morning, to try if he could take any thing from me, he shewed me this, (pulling a piece of greasy paper out of his pocket) which I think really a curiosity. It is a proof of a bawdy-song, which the gentleman we have been talking of wrote, and had a few copies of it printed for the amusement of his particular intimates. My friend got it from one of his journeymen, who sometimes works for that gentleman, and says there are a good many more of them, which
are

are all printed together in a ballad. You'll find it worth your reading. Nothing ever was so highly worked up. It gave me ineffable pleasure.'

'If you can prove this to be wrote by that person (said the other spitting, and rigging in his chair, after having pored over it for some time) your fortune is made! you know his enemies are striving to run him down by any means. Now this will give them so plausible an handle against him, that they will not fail to reward you liberally for the discovery. All you have to do, is to prove it plainly upon him.'-----

'I am pretty sure that may be done; (answered my master with some hesitation) But I---I---I---I hardly know how---I am under personal obligation.'-----

'Nay, if you let such things as that interfere, I give you up. What signifies past obligation, when put in competition with present interest? You know what my old antagonist says, that it is a rule among his former fraternity never to let any social or moral duties interfere with religion, of which he gives a remarkable instance in his own story. Now my interest is my religion; and every thing which interferes with that I abjure; as I have sufficiently proved. But I beg pardon, I would by no means press you to do any thing against your conscience, if it is so tender.'-----

'Wrong me not, my dearest friend, by such an opinion; my conscience is as far from being tender, as your's can be. I was only surprized, that I had not myself seen what you mentioned. But now that your friendship has pointed it out to me, you shall see me pursue it as eagerly as you can desire. All I want is your direction! Leave the rest to me.'

The remainder of the evening was spent in consultation

tion upon the plan proper to be pursued, the forming of which my master submitted implicitly to the superior judgment and experience of his friend, who was so pleased with this mark of his respect, and so sure of success, that on going away, he took a modest hint, and lent him five guineas, reminding him at the same time of the confidence he had placed in his honour, by disclosing his affairs to him, and enjoining him to secrecy.

CHAP. X.

CHRYSAL'S master pursues his scheme, and violates moral honesty to serve the cause of virtue and religion. He waits upon his patron, who honestly refuses a character, to which he knows he has no right; but undertakes the affair from a more prevailing motive, in which he is remarkably assisted by another person, of less modesty, who pleads the cause of religion and virtue in vain, till honour at length turns the scale in their favour. CHRYSAL'S master is disappointed of his hopes, and makes use of an expedient in character, to escape from the just reward of all his labours. CHRYSAL changes his service.

NOT to lose a moment's time, in a matter of such importance, my master went next morning to his worthy friend the printer, to whom he opened his scheme; and by his influence with the assistance of a bribe, and promises of much more, he prevailed on the fellow from whom the former paper was got, to betray the trust of his employer, and steal the whole ballad.

The next thing was to make his honest acquisition known

known to those from whom he expected the reward of his pious pains. For this purpose he waited upon his patron, and having with difficulty gained access to him, on repeated messages of important business, after the common cant of compliments, 'I am come, Sir, said he, on an errand, that I know must be agreeable to you, as it will afford a signal opportunity of shewing your regard for religion and virtue.'

'Heh! (answered his patron) My regard for religion and virtue! What the devil does the fellow mean? What regard have I ever shewn for either in word or action, that should put such a thought in your head? If you are come to preach to me, you shall soon find the effects of your piety.'-----

'Pardon me, Sir; I know you better than to be guilty of such presumption! What I mean is this. Fortune has favoured me with an opportunity of putting it into your power to establish such a character; and as I know most people are fond of the name, when it can be obtained without the trouble of the practice, I thought it my duty to acquaint you with it; especially as it will enable you, at the same time, to do a particular pleasure to your friends in power.'

'Why, there may be something in that, as you say; but for the rest, I care as little for the name, as I do for the practice; and would not give myself a moment's trouble to get it; so be quick, and let me hear what you have got to say. I have a match to ride to-morrow against a gentleman for a considerable wager, and must see his groom this morning, in order to settle matters with him; beside which, I have an assignation with his wife, who expects me at this very time, so
that

that I have not a moment, to lose about religion and virtue.'

My master, who knew him too well to attempt interfering with such engagements, politely wished him success, and then gave him in few words, an account of the whole affair, only reserving to himself the honour of the thought, with which his patron was so pleased, that he promised to give him all the assistance in his power, if it was only for the fun of the thing.

Accordingly, as soon as he could spare time, from his own weightier concerns, he mentioned the matter to those more immediately concerned in it, who embraced the project eagerly, and rewarded my master with most liberal promises for his pains, of which they resolved to take advantage, in order to crush a person, either hated or feared by every one among them.

In the attack made upon him for this purpose, the principal part was undertaken by one, whose regard for religion and virtue was heightened by a motive not the most consistent with either. This was the person who had been competitor with the culprit for the higher order of the **MOCK-MONASTERY**. In the account I gave you of that curious transaction, I observed that he cherished a secret grudge against the other, which was aggravated so violently by the disgrace he suffered on that occasion, that he had prevailed to have him expelled the society *. Such an opportunity therefore as this, of completing his revenge, was not to be missed by one of his principles. Accordingly, though at the sight of the ballad he knew it to be no more than a collection of the songs, which he had himself often bore a part in singing at the monastery, and some of the

* Vol. III.

worst of which he had boasted of being the author of, he inveighed against it with all the fervency and enthusiastic zeal of a modern fanatick, and displayed the danger of letting such an insult, upon every thing held sacred, go unpunished, in such strong and affecting colours, as afforded high entertainment to all who heard him, and were acquainted with his life.

But all his eloquence would have proved ineffectual to make such of his fraternity as were not, like him, stimulated by private motives, give the lie to their own practice, in so flagrant a manner as to censure the theory of it, had not some particular expressions happened to affect the honour of one of them, whom all the rest of course espoused; and thus for once, honour turned the scale in favour of virtue and religion, too light by themselves; and the ballad was condemned, as tending to debauch the principles of the people, though it was sufficiently known that it was not designed for publication, nor would ever have been heard of, had not this attack raised a curiosity about it.

Through the whole of this important transaction, my master performed his part most cleverly, stopping at nothing that was thought any way necessary to bring it to effect. As soon therefore as it was concluded, he prepared to receive the reward of his labour, the enjoyment of which he had anticipated in imagination in every shape it could be given.

But it was not long before he found his hopes had been too sanguine. Instead of being rewarded immediately, as he had been made to expect, the job was scarce done when he could perceive the smiles of favour grew cooler upon him, as often as he went to pay his court to his patrons, in order to keep them in mind

of their promises. A state of such uncertainty, severe enough upon any, was not to be borne by one in his circumstances. The expectations he had raised in the height of his hopes, had opened the mouths of all his creditors upon him, with an importunity not to be quieted; beside, that he had embezzled some public money intrusted to him, a demand for which he expected every day, and knew he could not shift off for a moment.

Driven almost to distraction by such irresistible necessity, he had no resource but to throw himself at the feet of the person who had appeared most sanguine in the pursuit of his scheme, and consequently been most liberal of his promises to him, and implore his assistance to extricate him from his accumulated distresses. But they who will most readily avail themselves of villainy, always detest the villain. All the return he received, was a cold profession of concern; and a shameless excuse of wanting that power to relieve him, which the caitiff suppliant well knew he had.

A new misfortune often lightens the weight of those under which the mind was sinking before, by rousing it from listless dejection, to an exertion of its powers. Such a disappointment of his only hope shewed him all the horrors of his situation; and made him instantly cast about how to escape from what he found he could not redress: instead therefore of betraying it, by his looks, which he knew were watched, he assumed an air of uncommon spirits, and telling every one that he had got a positive assurance of receiving the promised reward without any farther delay, he went to one of his tradesmen, by that time he thought the news might have reached him, and taking up goods to a considerable

able amount, for which he confidently engaged to pay at a fixed and short day, no sooner got them into his possession, than he sold them privately at half price, and packing up whatever he could carry with him, fled beyond the reach of his creditors; and so proved how far his late conduct had proceeded, as he professed, from his high regard to moral virtue and religion.

The agitation and horrors of his mind, from the time he had resolved upon flight, till he had effected it, may be easily conceived. Whether the present safety it procured him gave him any lasting relief, I had not an opportunity of seeing, as I quitted his service at the inn, where he took a post-chaise to get off; though it is most probable, that after the first hurry of his spirits subsided a sense of the various villainies, by which he had brought himself to such a state of exile, imbibbered the very blessing of liberty, and kept his mind in slavery, though his body was free.

CHAP. XI.

CHRYSAL again changes his service. His new master is obliged to pay expedition-fees, to get over artificial delays. He and his mistress set out on a long journey, to do what might have been better done at home. CHRYSAL makes some interesting reflections on a most important subject. Story of CHRYSAL's master. CHRYSAL continues his reflections on the same subject, which he considers in a farther and most affecting point of view. CHRYSAL changes his service.

MY late master had scarce decamped, when a young gentleman came to the inn, and ordering a chaise and four to be got ready with the utmost expedition, gave my new master a bank-note to pay for it, in the change of which he received me.

The anxiety which my new master expressed to have the grooms make haste, was a sufficient reason for them to practise every delay they could devise, in order to extort expedition-fees, at which they were so expert, that he was forced to give them almost as much as he paid for the chaise, before he could get it to stir.

When at length every thing was settled, he directed them to a particular place, where an hackney-coach waited for him, out of which he received a young lady, with a couple of small bundles, and then bade the postilions drive on; but they had no sooner got out of the town, than he changed his orders, and directed them to take another road. This occasioned a new delay. The fellows alledged their being obliged to go
where

where their master had ordered them, and no-where else; and made so many difficulties, that, as they expected, my master was compelled to purchase their compliance at their own price.

All obstacles being thus got over, he turned to the young lady, who sat trembling, and panting by his side, and embracing her tenderly, 'Now, my dearest love, (said he) all our fears are over. Should we be even traced to the inn, this turn will effectually baffle all pursuit.'

'I wish it may,' (answered she) 'but I shall never think myself safe, till I am absolutely out of their reach, and all is over.'

The conversation of lovers is agreeable only to themselves! The rest of their's for two days, as they flew rather than travelled (for which expedition they paid sufficiently, every set of postillions giving the word to the next) will not bear repetition. As soon as they got to the end of their journey, they put an end to their most immediate fears also, by a marriage, which might have been performed with a much greater probability of success at home, had not a positive law prevented it.

I see your surprize at my saying that a positive law prevented marriage, as the prosperity of the community depends in the first degree on the promotion of that state. But so it happens in human affairs, that the true interest of the people is not always the first object of the laws made for their government.

Though too general experience confirms this remark, it is necessary to explain the particular circumstance that gives occasion to it in this instance.

The first end of marriage is the propagation of the

species, in the manner most agreeable to reason, and likely to produce the happiness of the parties, as well as the population of the state. As the passions, which lead to this end, are strongest before reason has acquired strength to direct them, it is necessary that they should be subject to the direction of others who may be better qualified to discern and promote their interest. This right of direction naturally belongs to those who are most intimately concerned in that interest, as affecting a part of themselves; and hence, among every people upon the earth, however differing in other respects and customs, this right of directing the matrimonial choice has always belonged to the parents; till maturity of age may be presumed to ripen judgment, and so remove the necessity upon which it is founded.

But however evident this right is, the passions of youth so often rebel against it, that it was found necessary to enforce it by express laws. These laws though the professed end of which is to make marriage happy, should never be perverted to the unnatural purpose of preventing it entirely, by clogging it with such unnecessary and unreasonable restrictions, as tend to subjugate not only natural liberty, but also the highest interest of the state, which depends upon population, to avarice, caprice, or pride of family in parents; or to views of interest in those appointed to supply their place.

The particular case of my master, which gave occasion to these reflections, was this. He was the younger son of a noble family, to the honours of which his rising virtues promised to add new lustre. Youthful inclination had first attached him to this lady, whose merits upon acquaintance confirmed that attachment, more than her very large fortune. Such a marriage could

could not fail to meet the approbation of reason and paternal prudence. Accordingly every necessary preliminary was agreed upon, when the sudden death of her father threw in large obstacles which threatened to prevent it, at least for a longer time than youthful impatience could bear. For, as he had not actually signed to his consent, those to whom the care of his daughter devolved, thought proper to exert the right which the law gave them of objecting to the disparity between her fortune and that of her lover, and so break off a match evidently for their mutual advantage.

When the lovers found that all they could do to influence their compliance was ineffectual, they had recourse to this expedient (which the sage makers of the law had, perhaps inadvertently, left open) to evade it, by flying beyond its power; and there solemnized a marriage, which should be valid at their return home, though entered into without any of the prudential cautions for securing happiness, which are customary on such occasions, and he had in vain offered to come in to; so that the law, which was professedly designed to prevent inconsiderate and unhappy marriages, in its effect deprived this, and the many marriages of the kind, of the means for procuring happiness, which former laws, founded on reason, had provided for them.

It is not to be denied, but the evils, which were immediately alledged as the occasion of this law, called aloud for remedy; but whether the remedy provided by it did not introduce an inconvenience of worse consequence to the public than those evils, is not so clear a case. Whatever restrictions might have been thought necessary, in worldly wisdom, to prevent secret marriages,

riages, by which either the honours of families might be supposed to suffer diminution, or their fortunes fall a prey to mercenary design, where these considerations interfere not, such restrictions should never, in good policy, extend.

On the contrary, every impediment and delay, not immediately proceeding from moral necessity, should be removed; and the state of matrimony encouraged by such honours and advantages as should counterbalance the inconveniencies of it, to persons labouring under circumstances of indigence; by which means the inferior ranks of the people, whose numbers make the strength of a state, would be delivered from the difficulties and fears which at present deter them from entering into matrimony, to the heavy loss of the community, and the immediate ruin of such numbers of both sexes, whose natural passions, debarred from this, their only proper resource, lead them into such vices as defeat the end of their creation, and make them a reproach to humanity. How many infants would daily be saved from the most unnatural murder, to the ornament and advantage of their country, could the wretched parents have saved their own shame by marriage? How many females, who offer themselves in the highways to brutal prostitution, perishing with cold, hunger, and disease, might have been the happy mothers of many children, and performed all the duties of their station in virtuous esteem, had not their being hindered from marrying, by impediments made by law, betrayed them to destruction?

As soon as my master had thus accomplished the end of his journey, he set out on his return to enjoy the fruits of it at home. But I continued not in his possession,

possession, to see much of that mutual happiness which his marriage promised, being borrowed from him on the road, by a gentleman of his acquaintance, who had been bubbled out of all his money at an horse-race, and was now fighting his way to town, by running in debt at every inn, and raising contributions thus on all he met, of whom he had the least knowledge.

CHAP. XII.

CHRYSAI'S new master strikes out an adventure. He is smitten with a girl in a travelling-waggon, and changes his appearance to get admission to her. Account of the company in the waggon. A good-natured mistake of one of the passengers gives occasion for a broil, which is put an end to by an accident that does not mend the matter.

DISTRESSING as such a situation would have been to another, custom had made it so familiar to my new master, that he thought nothing of it, but travelled on with his equipage, as unconcerned, and ready to engage in any mad freak, as if his pockets were full of money. Nor was he long without an opportunity of indulging his disposition.

As he was rolling carelessly along, his chariot was stopped in a narrow part of the road, by one of those travelling-waggon, whose unwieldy weight gives them the privilege of taking place of their betters. Such a circumstance naturally made the travellers in both carriages look out, when he was struck with the uncommon beauty of a young creature in the waggon, whose charms in the first opening of their bloom gave scope to
 imagination.

imagination to paint a prospect if possible beyond their present perfection.

Such a temptation could scarce be resisted by one who had reasoned his passions into the best subjection, much less by him who blindly obeyed them in, or rather stimulated them to their utmost excess. He no sooner saw, therefore, than he resolved to have her by any means. The first thing to be done, for this pious purpose, was to change his appearance, in order to get into her company, as the least suspicion of his rank would directly blow his design. But this was no difficulty. He was well accustomed to lay it down; and the meanest character in life sat as naturally upon him as his own.

Accordingly as soon as his chariot passed the waggon, he drove on furiously, till he was out of sight, when he alighted, and changing cloaths with one of his servants out of livery, ordered them to leave the great road, and wait for him at an inn, some miles distant across the country.

Thus equipped for his enterprize, he walked on leisurely, like a common traveller, till he was overtaken by the waggon, the driver of which plied him in the usual way to take a place, which after some affected difficulties he agreed to. But the greatest difficulty arose not from him. The waggon was already so full, that when the driver mentioned taking in another, the passengers all cried out against it with one voice. But his authority was too absolute to be resisted. He fixed his ladder, and ordered them to make room, barely condescending to say that it was for a gentleman, who had been taken suddenly ill, and wanted to go only to the next village. This circumstance, though treated with
brutal

brutal disregard by the rest, had an immediate effect upon the tender disposition of his destined prey, who squeezed closer to her mother, he crept into his nest, and settled himself as conveniently as he could next to her in the straw.

The company into which he had thus thrust himself, seemed to be a representative of all the heteroclite characters of the age. Beside the young female, whose appearance had attracted him, and her mother, a plain good-looking woman, it consisted of a mountebank-doctor and his zany, a methodist preacher, a strolling actor and actress, a fat ale-wife, a servant-maid, who was going to London to repair a cracked reputation, a recruiting serjeant, and two recruits, an outlaw'd smuggler, and a broken exciseman.

Though my master could not at first view distinguish all their different characters, some of them were so strongly marked, that he promised himself the highest entertainment from the clashing which he concluded must inevitably arise in such a group, and was resolved to promote, upon the first occasion. But an accident soon gave him that pleasure, without the trouble of planning for it.

As the weather was warm, and few of the company could be suspected of the delicacy of changing their cloaths often, it may be supposed that every savour which arose among them was not purely aromatic. My master had not been many minutes in his place, when the various odours fuming round him, had such an effect upon his senses, that he undesignedly breathed a wish for a bottle of spirits.

As he had been introduced under the pretence of being sick, the ale-wife, who happened to be near him, mistook

mistook his meaning, and thought he wanted a dram, not once dreaming of any other use of spirits. Pulling out a flask therefore from under her coat, in the height of good-nature, 'Spirits! (said she) they are poisonous stuff. Here is what will do you more good by half! Then drawing the cork, and taking a sup, to shew him that it was not poison, 'Drink some of this, (continued she, reaching him the flask) and I'll warrant it will settle you. It is right Hollands.'

Before my master had time either to accept or refuse her offer, the actor, who sat between them, smocked her mistake, and intercepting the bottle, as she reached across him, cried out in triumph,

'Bravo, my queen! your gin from Holland pure.

'My stomach sooner than his head will cure.'—

Then taking a large go down, or two, 'Here, Belvidera, (added he, giving the bottle to the actress) in this friendly cup, drown all your sorrows!--Drink as you love me, deep.'

His faithful mate could not disobey such a command. She took the bottle, and lifting it to her head, 'Thus to the bottom (said she) though it were a mile!'

But she was interrupted in her intention by the smuggler, who lay at her feet, and no sooner smelled the dear liquor, than he raised his head, and perceiving what she was about, 'A vast haling there, (cried he, snatching the bottle from her mouth) or you'll pump the scupper dry.' And then going to put it to his own, 'Hold, (said the exciseman, catching his hand with the same design) I seize this in the king's name, till I know whether it has paid duty.'

The mention of the word duty, set the smuggler's blood on fire. 'Duty! you shark! (said he, grasping

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the bottle faster, and catching him in return by the throat with the other hand) I'll seize you! damn my eyes and limbs! I'll pay you the duty, if you don't loose your hold this moment, you scoundrel! that I will.'

Though he gripped the exciseman's throat so hard, that he could not return his compliment in words, he scorned to yield the prize without one effort. Giving a twist therefore with all his force to wrest it out of his antagonist's hand, though he could not succeed, he prevailed so far as to turn the mouth of the bottle downwards, by which means the contents were poured full in the face of the serjeant, who lay snoring on his back, with his mouth wide open.

Welcome as such a guest would have been in a proper manner, the intrusion thus unexpectedly was not so agreeable. He started up half suffocated; and belching his dose full in the face of one of the recruits, 'Blood anouns! fire! and fury! (sputtered he) what's the meaning of this?'

Just as he said this, one of the wheels of the waggon came into a deep hole, with such a plump, that though it did not absolutely overset, it tumbled all the passengers on top of one another; and instantly put a stop to the cries of the ale-wife, for the loss of her liquor.

The screams, oaths, and execrations of the whole company, on this occasion, would have given my master the highest delight, had he not been rather too nearly concerned to enjoy the fun, the fat ale-wife being thrown so full upon him, that he was unable to stir, though almost smothered, so that he could not help adding his cries to the concert.

C H A P. XIII.

CHRYSAL's master experiences some comfortable consequences from the obliging disposition of the waggoner. He pursues his design, by paying common civility to his mistress's mother. Conversation and behaviour of the company. CHRYSAL's master, in the pursuit of his design, meets an adventure that cools his passion, and reassembles the company, when they are all like to be at fault, till one of them luckily bits off the scent.

WHEN the driver had got his waggon out of the hole, and seen that all was safe about it, he came to know what was the matter with his passengers; and having unpacked them, my master had the pleasure to hear the young woman propose to her mother to walk a little way, till some, not the most agreeable consequences of the late disaster, should blow off, to which she readily consented, as he prepared to accompany them both for the same reason, and in order to have an opportunity of making an acquaintance, which he found he could not so well do in the waggon.

But the waggoner was not in the humour to give them that indulgence. When they called to him to let them down, he answered furiously, that they had not above a couple of miles to their inn; and if he were to stop thus every moment, he should not get in, in time, and so without any farther ceremony whipped on his horses. This was a severe disappointment to my master, who soon grew so sick, that he could not hold up his head all the rest of the way.

But

But the qualms of his stomach did not affect his conscience, so as to make him in the least alter his design. On his arrival at the inn, he made a pretence of the compassion which the young girl and her mother had expressed for him, to attach himself particularly to them, and ply them with wine, by way of return, which false modesty made the mother take so freely, as gave him good hopes of success.

The conversation and behaviour at supper was strictly in the character of the company. The methodist made a long grace, and talk'd of religion and temperance, while he eat more than any two at the table, and his eyes were gloating at the servant-maid, his fellow-traveller, who seem'd to listen to him with great complacency and attention. The actor mimick'd the methodist to his face, and lolled out his tongue at every one else, as they happened to look another way. The actress spoke in heroics, and turned up her nose at every thing and every body. The smuggler and exciseman sat growling at each other, as if they meant to make a farther trial of their manhood. The serjeant talked of his exploits in the wars, and proved his valour by an oath at every word, which his two pupils listened to with looks of admiration, that shewed they design'd to imitate that part of his example at least. The ale-wife lamented the loss of her gin, which, she said, she could not replace with any like it on the whole road. In short, every body eat and talk'd; and talk'd and eat together, except the girl and her mother, who were quite lost in astonishment at a scene so new to them, and my master, whose thoughts were too much taken up with his own scheme, to mind any thing else.

Accordingly he stepped out when supper was ended,

and engaging the chamber-maid in his interest, by a present of half a crown, she shewed him where his mistress was to lie, and promised to settle all things in the manner most convenient to his designs, by putting her and her mother in the bed next to the door, there being two in the room, and placing in the other the servant-maid, who paid for a bed to herself, as her modesty would not permit her to sleep with a stranger.

As soon as the house was quiet, and my master thought the wine which he had forced upon the mother had secured her, he got up, and stealing in his shirt to the door of their chamber, found it open, upon which he entered, and crept to the bed, where he expected to find his mistress, without ever considering what must be the consequence of surprizing her in such a manner. Opening the curtains therefore softly to feel by the difference of size on which side she lay, he had scarce put his hand upon the cloaths, when it was seized and gripped so hard, that he soon lost all thought of every thing but disengaging himself.

For this purpose, he made two or three efforts, but finding them ineffectual, and provoked at the pain his hand suffered in the struggle, he discharged a blow with the other full on the face of his antagonist, who springing directly out of bed, returned it with such usury, that my poor master fell sprawling on the floor, where he roared out murder with all his might, in which he was immediately joined by those who lay in the other bed, whose cries not only raised the house to his rescue, but also saved him from farther violence, his antagonist desisting to beat him, in order to make his retreat in time.

When those, who lay nearest, were assembled at the door,

door, half clad, and worse armed with whatever they could catch up in their confusion, prudential regard to personal safety made them all stop short; every one finding some pretence to excuse himself from going in first, and pressing the post of honour upon his neighbour, till they at length raised their fears so high, that it was uncertain whether any one would venture in before daylight, though the cries still continued, had not the smuggler, who did not wake to join them at first, put an end to the debate. 'Damn you all, (said he, snatching a candle from one, and a poker from another) for a pack of cowardly lubbers! Will you stand jawing here, while the people are murdering?' Then rushing in, 'Hallo! (continued he) what's going forward here, in the devil's name?'

The first object that presented itself to his view, when he entered, was my master, who was still upon the ground, unable, between fright and beating, to rise. Advancing to him therefore, 'Hip, messmate! (said he, giving him a kick on his naked posteriors) What cheer? Speak, if you are alive!'

The entrance of light restoring my master to some spirit, he raised his head at this salutation, and making an effort to get up, 'I scarce know whether I am or not, (answered he) I have been so beaten by that bitch of Babel; but she shall pay for it, if I ever recover.'

The place where he was found, directing this accusation to the person in that bed, while some of them helped him up, the rest gathered round it, and asked the servant-maid who lay there, what had induced her to treat the gentleman in such a manner? But the mention of her name saved her the trouble of a reply. Before she could speak, 'It was not she! (exclaimed my

master) I mean the old Beldam, mother to the young Witch, whose babby-face brought me among you, and who lay in this bed. It was she who abused me thus; or rather some porter in woman's cloaths, who passed for her, for no woman ever had such strength.'-----

'I believe you must be mistaken, Sir, (interposed the exciseman) the people you mean are lying quietly in the next bed, and seem to be as much frightened as you are hurt.'-----

'How! (returned my master) did they not lie in this bed, next the door?'-----

'No, (answered the other) Mrs Margery lies here, as grave and demure, as a whore at a christening.'-----

'Then the jade of a chamber-maid played me a trick; (replied my master) but who the devil lay with her? For I am sure she was never able to do what I have suffered.'-----

'As for that, (said the actor, who had all the while been peeping round the bed) I believe it will be no hard matter to find it out. These breeches, (pulling a pair from under the bolster) must belong to somebody, and will certainly point out her bedfellow, if the lady, like a true Amazon, did not wear them herself.'

C H A P. XIV.

The advantage of a ready assurance. The methodist accounts curiously for what he has done; and turning the tables upon CHRYSAL'S master, charges him with robbery, who is thereupon obliged to discover himself, but is contradicted by one of the company, who boasts of a curious acquaintance with him in his own character. He is luckily recognized by a footman, whose master extricates him from his distress, and makes out the mistakes that had caused so much confusion.

AS the breeches were immediately known to belong to the methodist, they marched away directly to his bedside, for he had not joined them, and asked him how he had come to use the gentleman in that inhuman manner, shewing him my master, whom they had dragged along with them.

'Who I! (answered the methodist, affecting all the surprize of innocence, and determined to deny what he thought could not be proved.) Heaven forbid that I should use any fellow-christian ill. I engage not in such broils. My warfare is with the spirit.'-----

'And sometimes with the flesh too, I believe doctor! (interrupted the actor.) Nay it is in vain to deny it! do you know these breeches, doctor?'-----

'Breeches! (exclaimed he, starting up in real affright, and fumbling under his bolster) O they are gone! they are gone! I am robbed, ruined, and undone.'-----

'No, doctor, they are not gone, as you see! But
the

the question is, how they came under the young woman's bed's head, where this gentleman received this abuse.'—

' Let him answer that! (replied the methodist, never at a loss for an impudent lie) let him answer that! all I know of the matter, is this: Being disturbed in my rest, I then knew not, but now plainly perceive by what cause, I arose to pray, as is my custom, when hearing somebody go softly out of the room, I watched, as was my duty, to prevent any evil, and following the footsteps into another chamber caught a man in the very fact of attempting the virtue of some female, who lay there; upon which expostulating with him on the heinousness of such a crime, he flew at me so furiously that I could scarce defend myself from him, and if in the fray he received any hurt, he must charge it to himself, as he was the aggressor. But this is not the whole! I now perceive, that I was disturbed out of my sleep, by his stealing my breeches from under my head which he accordingly took with him into the room of that damsel, and therefore I demand justice against him, for the attempt, as well as for any loss I have suffered.'—

Saying this, he took his breeches out of the actor's hand, and searching the pockets, ' It is too true!' continued he, gnashing his teeth, and wringing his hands in a perfect agony) ' It is too true!' I am ruined and undone! I am robbed of all the money which I had collected in my pilgrimage to relieve the poor of the Lord. Twenty golden guineas, besides silver and other monies. Let him be searched! Let every body be searched this moment. I must have my money! I must have my money.'

As my master was a stranger to them all; and not
blessed

blesſed with a face that could beſpeak much favour, they began to give credit to the charge againſt him, eſpecially as the ſervant-maid corroborated it, by ſaying that he had alſo been rummaging for her pockets, when that worthy gentleman interrupted him (for women and all were now gathered to hear the matter canvafſed) and talked of carrying him before a magiſtrate in the morning, that he might be ſent to jail.

At another time, ſuch a ſcene would have given him the higheſt pleaſure, but he had no taſte for fun now. Enraged therefore at the iniquity of ſuch a charge, and the inſolence with which they were proceeding to treat him, ‘Unhand me, at your perils, you ſcoundrels;’ (ſaid he, telling them who he was) ‘Unhand me this moment. As for that infamous villain, and his truſſ, I charge you to ſecure them directly, and ſend in my name for a magiſtrate.—I’ll make examples of them at leaſt.’

You may conceive with what ſurprize they were all ſtruck at hearing this. However, as he gave only his bare word for it, all were not equally ready to believe him. ‘You, my friend Scapegrace!’ (ſaid the actor, coming and looking him full in the face) ‘No no, ſir! Say that to thoſe who don’t know him. I am his intimate companion; his choſen among ten thouſand. There is not a fine girl upon the town but we have bilked; nor an houſe in the hundreds of Drury where we have not kicked up a duſt together. He and I are Pylades and Oreſtes; ſworn friends and brothers. No! no! that ſtroke won’t paſs upon me.’

This made matters worſe than ever with my maſter, adding ridicule to inſult, which was poured upon him in ſuch torrents from every mouth, that he could not ſpeak

speak a word in his own defence. But his distress lasted not long. The servants of a gentleman, who luckily happened to lie at the inn that night, being raised by the uproar, one of them knew my master through all his disguises. 'By your leave there!' (said he, rushing through the crowd, and shoving aside some of them who had already laid hold of him) 'Are you all mad, to use a gentleman in this manner?' Then addressing himself to my master, 'What is the matter, please your honour? I am sorry to see your honour in such a pickle. My master (naming him) is in the house, and will do you justice. I'll run, and call him up directly.'

Such a testimony instantly turned the scale, and made those who were most insolent to him before, now most officious to pay him respect and attendance. Accordingly he was removed, without asking his leave, into his own room, where they were preparing to humanize his appearance, when the gentleman entered.

Much as my master was above the weakness of shame, he could not avoid feeling something like it, on being caught in such a condition. He was sitting on the side of the bed, covered only with the ragged remains of his shirt, which had been torn to pieces in the fray, daubed all over with blood and dirt, and beaten to such a degree, that he scarce retained one feature of the human face divine, which had not lost all likeness of the original.

The gentleman started at such a spectacle, and stopped short in doubt whether it could be he, till my master's voice satisfied him; when he gave orders to have every one concerned in the affair secured; and then seeing the poor sufferer taken proper care of, and put

to

to bed, he proceeded to enquire into the matter, the circumstances of which appeared to be these.

The methodist having agreed with the servant-maid, his fellow-traveller, to have some spiritual conversation with her that night, she promised to lie in the bed next the door, and therefore after the chamber-maid had assigned them their quarters, as she had settled with my master, feigned some pretence to desire a change, which the others readily consented to. Accordingly, as the methodist was secure of his reception, he came soon, and was got into bed to his disciple, when my master made his attempt, whose hand he seized in the manner I have related; and would have beaten him still more severely for his intrusion, had it not been for his crying out, upon which he retreated to his own bed in such an hurry, to escape detection, that he forgot his breeches, which he had taken with him for fear some of his chamber-fellows should search them, and rob him of eight or ten guineas that he had picked up in the course of his preaching about the country, and the actor had made bold to take as lawful prize, when they fell into his hands, and afterwards found means to convey to his wife, for more security.

Every thing being thus cleared up, the gentleman advised my master to drop the affair, as prosecuting it would only expose him still more, to which he willingly agreed, having no inclination for any farther trouble about it.

The methodist though was far from being so easily pacified for the loss of the fruits of his summer's labour in the vineyard, which he thought worse of than a thousand beatings, and was resolved to recover, if possible, in spite of all their scoffs and insults. But the
detection

detection of the other part of his history, had so entirely destroyed his credit, that he found it in vain to persist, especially as the actor offered to make oath that he had that very evening applied to him, to borrow a shilling to pay his reckoning. Cursing them all therefore in the bitterness of his soul, he changed his route, and went upon another preaching progress in order to retrieve his loss, in which pious work he prevailed upon his disciple and fellow-sufferer in shame, the servant-maid, whose pockets had escaped the pillagers, to accompany him.

By this time the waggon was ready to set out, when the rest of the company departed, except the actor and his lady, who were so tired with that vulgar way of travelling, that they thought proper to continue their journey in the stage-coach; and my master, who was laid up in fives and flannels, and had lost both ability and inclination to pursue his enterprize any farther.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

CHRYSAL gives a striking account of his master. He arrives in London, and pays a visit to his mistress. His curious method of courting. His mistress makes him a present of half her fortune beforehand, in return for which he promises to marry her next day, and then goes to his girl. Difference in his behaviour to the two naturally accounted for. An uncommon guest at a wedding, with as uncommon a manner of celebrating a nuptial-night. shew a still more uncommon instance of matrimonial compliance. CHRYSAL changes his service.

THE singularity of my master's character gave me a curiosity to take a view of his life, while he was sleeping off some of the effects of his late adventure. He was born in a rank that supported the fair hopes of honour and advantage, which the first opening of his youth universally raised. But an error in his education blasted all those hopes in the bud, and drove him into every extreme of vice and folly, which it was designed to guard against.

The bad consequences which are seen to attend indulging the passions too far, often lead weak minds to attempt suppressing them entirely, without considering that the crime is only in the excess. The difficulty and pain of this attempt throw such a gloom over the whole appearance, as hides the native beauty of virtue, and makes it seem to be the source of unhappiness, to

those who view it only in these effects, so as to terrify them from the pursuit of it.

On this error pretended enthusiasts have in every age founded their influence, by enslaving the mind to groundless terrors, which they never fail to turn to their own advantage. To the conduct of such blind and base guides, the mother of my master, to whom the sole care of his education had fallen by the death of her husband, implicitly resigned herself, and of course her son, in return for which they flattered her fanaticism and vanity together, with promises of breeding him up in the perfection of sanctity.

For this purpose, he was debarred from every innocent recreation, and harrassed with studies improper for his age. His appetites were mortified with fasting; his rest was broken to chaunt hymns, and pray; nor was he allowed even to speak but in scripture-phrase; and all as the indispensable duties of virtue and religion.

Such a slavery naturally gave him so great an aversion to every thing that bore their names, that the moment he became his own master, he placed the supreme pleasure of his life in acting in contradiction to them, by every instance of expensive and vicious excess, in which he squandered away the inheritance of his ancestors, and broke his constitution with a rapidity that gave scandal to vice, put folly out of countenance, and made his name a bye-word in an age of excesses. And in this situation he was, when I came into his possession.

Though it was near noon before he awoke, the gentleman whose presence had so luckily relieved him the night before, waited to see him, when he completed his kindness by lending him money to defray his expences

pences up to town, upon which he sent for his equipage, and set off without farther concern at what had happened.

On his arrival at London, he drove directly to the last place, which any other man in his circumstances would have thought of going to. This was the house of a lady of large fortune, to whom he had paid his addresses, since his extravagance had dissipated his own; and with this peculiar honesty, that he never even pretended a regard to herself.

The success of such a courtship must appear improbable, but there is no accounting for the caprice of woman. She had taken a liking to him, which seemed to rise in proportion to the slights he shewed her, and was resolved to gratify, if only nominally, for she could expect no more, at the hazard of every happiness of life.

It may be supposed that the sight of him, in such a condition, struck her severely. She flew to him, threw her arms around his neck, and bemoaned his misfortune in the most passionate terms. But that was not what he wanted. Shaking her off, without feigning the least return to her fondness, 'Psha!' (said he) 'leave off this stuff; and let me know whether you have got the money, I told you I should want to pay off those debts of honour! If you have, and will also give me up the rest of your fortune, without reserve, I'll marry you.'

'Will you!' (exclaimed she, in rapture) then you have it, if it were ten times as much. Here it is; (opening a bureau, and reaching him an handful of bank-notes) I sold out half my fortune to raise it the very day you spoke to me.'

S. 2

'I wish

'I wish I had known that, (said he, putting the notes in his pocket) and then I might have made my excursion into the country longer. Farewell! I'll call upon you to-morrow evening, and conclude the job. Do you have the hangman and halter ready.'

'What do you mean? I don't understand you.'

'What should I mean, but the parson and the ring. Is not that an halter? And does not he hang us up with it for life!'

'But cant you stay a few moments! I want to know how you come in that condition!'

'It was only a scrape about a wench. I'll tell you the particulars another time. My girl would not forgive me, if she knew I was so long in town, without going to her.'

'But will you certainly come to-morrow? I am afraid you will disappoint me, now you have got what you wanted.'

'Never fear! I have not got what I want, while you have a shilling left in the world.'

Saying which, he walked away without deigning to take any farther leave.

But his behaviour was not so cavalier where he was going. The moment he entered his mistress's room, she flew at him, not with the fondness of a dove. 'See! (said she) what bawdy-house have you been breaking up now? You do well to come to me in such a pickle; but I'll see you damn'd before I take the trouble of nursing you.'

Don't be in a passion my love, (said he, taking her in his arms and giving her a kiss) it is no such thing. I fell among a gang of foot-pads, who abused me in this manner, because I made resistance.'

'A very

‘A very likely story truly, invented I suppose to excuse your not bringing me money! but if that is the case, you may go to the devil from whence you came. I’ll not be troubled with your company.’

‘No, my dear, I never come to you empty-handed, let me do as I will elsewhere.’ With which words he pulled out one of the bank-notes he had just got from the other, and giving it to her, put her at length in a good humour.

I see your indignation at a man’s acting in such a manner; but you could expect no other. The same baseness of temper which could treat the other woman with insult, naturally submitted to be insulted by this.

You imagine that his mistress must have uncommon attractions, to give her such power over him! You judge right. Her’s were uncommon indeed. She had lost her hair and teeth in a salivation; and was allowed to be the most profligate of her profession; charms sufficient to attach a man of his taste.

My master having thus happily made his peace, the loving couple sat down to their bottle, as usual; over which happening to mention his intended marriage the next day, her delicacy took such offence, that she positively refused to consent to it, till he promised not only that she should be present, but also to return and spend his wedding-night with her, to prove her triumph over the happy bride.

Accordingly he took her with him the next evening, and introducing her to the expecting fair one. ‘I have brought my girl (said he) to grace our nuptials. The dear creature insisted upon it; and you know I can’t refuse her any thing.’ The bride elect was so enraptured at the thought of her approaching happiness, that

she had no sense of the insult, but received her with politeness, perhaps not without a mixture of pride on the occasion.

There are some scenes, the extravagance of which begs description. I shall therefore only say, that the behaviour of the company was in character, during the ceremony and entertainment; at the end of which the bridegroom alledging his promise to go back with his mistress, the convenient bride not only consented, but also proposed preparing an apartment for her, in her own house, to save him that trouble for the future, and procure for herself the pleasure of his company; a scheme that was actually carried into execution, while she had an house to receive her, which was not very long; a continuance of the same extravagance that had dissipated his own fortune soon dissipating her's also.

It may be imagined that I did not remain long in the possession of such a master. He lost me, the next evening after his marriage, on a bet, that he could repeat the Lord's Prayer, which he laid on purpose to lose, in order to prove how entirely he had got rid of the prejudices of education.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XVI.

CHRYSAL makes some reflections, not likely to be much regarded. His master pays a love-visit to a lady, whose father interposes unpolitely, and makes some out-of-the-way objections. CHRYSAL'S master hits upon a scheme for getting over them. He proposes marriage on certain terms, which are agreed to, and the day fixed at a little distance.

I HAVE on former occasions given you a sufficient description how people of fashion spend their time in gaming-houses, where, though every meeting produces new misfortunes to some of the company, there is such a sameness in the manner as will not bear repetition, and must cloy any creature not absolutely under infatuation, or obliged to make a trade of it for bread, as neither of which was the case of my new master, he left the company early, to pursue pleasures more in his own taste.

In no instance are the contradictions in human conduct so strongly shewn, as in that of man to woman. He who would lose his life rather than violate the strictest principles of honour or honesty (as they are absurdly distinguished from each other) in his intercourse with another man, not only scruples not to study deceit, and practise the blackest and basest villainies against woman; but will even glory in the success of them, when accomplished, without shewing remorse in himself, or meeting reproof from others.

The reason of this is generally said to be man's partiality

tiality to his own cause, which as he has the power of judging in his hands, whether by usurpation or right, it matters not, makes him pardon in others the crime he would be glad to commit himself.

But without exculpating him in the least, woman bears an heavy share in the blame of her sex's ruin. I mean not here by her immediate consent in her own case, but by the countenance which she shews to the perpetrators of it, in that of others; it being as certain in fact, as it is gross and absurd to thought, that the surest recommendation to the general favour of women is the same of having ruined numbers of them.

Whether this proceeds from a vain ambition of triumphing over the triumpher, or an affectation of disdain to espouse the cause of the fallen, as having forfeited the common regards of humanity, makes no difference in the consequence, whatever it may in the crime, as it opens an opportunity to the spoiler to extend his conquests often upon themselves, in the midst of their security; whereas, would women shew a true sense of the honour of their sex, by refusing every kind of intercourse with such as had ever violated it, man's partiality to himself would lose its effect, and all his designs upon them be restrained within the proper boundaries of virtue.

From the place where I came into the possession of my new master, he went to pay a visit to a young lady of uncommon beauty and merit, whom he was violently in love with; that is, he was earnestly bent upon gratifying his desire for her, at the expence of her ruin; an enterprise for which he was eminently qualified, being possessed of all the advantages of youth, fortune and address, and absolutely free from every restraint of principle,

principle, as he had proved on several successful occasions of the same kind. The reception he met shewed that he had made an interest in her heart; but, all his experience in the science of intrigue could not elude the vigilance of her virtue for a moment, nor find the least opening for any attack upon her honour.

Such difficulties only redoubled his ardour. As he was considering therefore next morning how he should proceed, he was interrupted in his meditations by a visit from his mistress's father. After some time spent in common chat, 'I have taken the liberty to wait upon you, Sir, (said the father) about an affair, the importance of which, to my happiness, will apologize for any seeming unpoliteness in it. I have for some time taken notice of the frequency of your visits to my house, the honour of which I am justly sensible of, but not so far dazzled by, but I can see the motive of them through it; and therefore must for many reasons beg leave to desire that you will discontinue them.'

'I--I--I don't understand you, Sir; (answered my master, a good deal disconcerted at so unexpected an address) I have no motive that I desire to conceal, or is any way inconsistent with the character of a gentleman.'

'Pardon me, Sir, (replied the other) I mean no such thing. But yet, what may be thought consistent with that character in some things, may be very inconsistent with the happiness of a father. To be plain, Sir, I am not so unacquainted with the world, but I can see that all your visits are paid to my daughter; and as she is not upon a level with you, either in family or fortune, for a wife, I must repeat my request, that you will drop

drop a pursuit, which must therefore have another view.'

'You do injustice to your daughter, (returned my master, recovered from his surprize, and convinced that it was in vain to dissemble any longer) to say that she is not upon a level with any man alive. I am above the vain pride of family; and as to fortune, my own satisfies me, without hazarding my happiness to seek for more.'

'These (said the lady's father) are truly the sentiments of a gentleman, nor have I any doubt of the sincerity with which you declare them. But there are other considerations that make it impossible to carry them into execution. You and my daughter profess different principles of religion; and as I can by no means expect that you shall change your's, so I hope she is too firmly established in her's, to quit them for any worldly honour or advantage.'

This was a stroke my master was not prepared for. He acquiesced therefore seemingly, with the best grace he could, to avoid entering more explicitly into the subject, till he should have time to concert measures for getting over this new difficulty, for his honour was now piqued; and he resolved to stop at nothing, if only to punish the insolence of her father in presuming to forbid him his house.

Accordingly, after revolving a variety of schemes, he fixed upon one which he thought could not fail. Big with this hope, he went next morning to wait upon his mistress, notwithstanding the interdiction of her father, and finding her alone, after some moments of mutual confusion on the circumstances of such a meeting, 'I--I--I am come madam, (said my master, hesitating, and

and blushing as he spoke) I am come in consequence of what passed between your father and me yesterday, of which I presume he has informed you. It was never my design to disavow a passion, upon which depends the happiness of my life. I only waited till some particular circumstances should enable me to declare it with more convenience. But as he has made the discovery, that reserve is no longer necessary. If therefore, madam, I can be so happy as to find favour in your sight, all his objections I presume will be removed by my offering to marry you directly; on this sole condition, that our marriage shall be kept inviolably secret, till I have accomplished some affairs, to which you must be sensible the difference of our religions would be a prejudice. The ceremony shall be performed by any clergyman you please, in the presence of your father, and any other witnesses in whose secrecy we can confide, and every thing done that can convince you of the sincerity and honour of my attachment. Speak then, dearest madam, and make me happy, by complying with a proposal that has your happiness in view, equally with my own.'

'I should be unworthy of the honour you do me, (answered she, the blush of true modesty heightening the charms of her beauty) if I could let it interfere with superior obligations. When the approbation of my father gives a proper sanction to your application to me, you will probably find no great difficulty in making my inclination go hand in hand with my duty.'

Her father just then entering, relieved her from the embarrassment of any farther conversation upon so delicate a subject; and she withdrew. But my master was

was under no such difficulty. Encouraged by a reply so favourable to his hopes; he directly repeated his proposal to her father, who promised him a decisive answer next morning.

As the manner of his reception left him no room to doubt of his success, he went again, at the time appointed, when the father gave his consent without difficulty, as did his mistress, stipulating only for a short delay, till she should return from the wedding of a young lady, her cousin, who lived at some distance in the country, and had engaged her to attend her upon that occasion. As he could make no just objection to this, however disagreeable suspension of his hopes, he consented with a compliment, that his resolution was too firmly fixed for any time to make him change it, and then took his leave, exulting at the success of his project.

CHAP. XVII.

CHRYSAL's master is privately married. Not satisfied with one wife for love, he wants another for money. He proposes the matter to his wife, on whose refusal he discloses his grand scheme; in which, deep as it is laid, he has the mortification to find himself anticipated, and his own weapons turned upon himself. Consequence of this discovery, CHRYSAL's master takes a common method of silencing scandal. CHRYSAL changes his service.

THE smiles of hope make the sunshine of life; as the mind is then too intent upon the object in expectation,

tion, to see the inconveniences which afterwards imbit-
ter the enjoyment of it. The absence of his mistress,
though considerably longer than he had apprehended,
passed away pleasantly in the thought of his approach-
ing happiness. As soon as she returned, therefore, he
directly claimed the performance of her promise; to
which all parties consenting, they were married by his
own chaplain, in the private manner he desired.

Possessed thus of his wishes, his next care was to en-
joy them, with the most convenience to himself. For
this purpose, he took an house next to his own; and
opening a secret communication between them, he re-
moved her thither, as he could not take her directly
home without declaring his marriage.

Mortifying as the mysterious appearance of such a
situation must have been to her, she made no objection,
but complied implicitly, in that and every thing else,
as if she had no will but his. Passions merely sensual
are soon sated. Though the resemblance of this inter-
course to an intrigue heightened the pleasure of it, he
had not carried it on long, when an opportunity of
marrying to great advantage, in the phrase of the
world, awoke his ambition, and gave his wishes another
turn.

After some little conflict with himself, in which the
object in view proved too powerful for that in posses-
sion, he resolved to break the matter to his wife. Ac-
cordingly, as they sat together one morning at break-
fast, after some expressions of uncommon tenderness,
'The regard, which my dearest girl has always shewn
for me, (said he, blushing at his own baseness as he
spoke) convinces me that she will not only take plea-
sure to hear of any thing to my advantage, but also
forward it as far as may be in her power.'

‘I hope no action of my life, (answered she, surpris-
ed at his speaking in such a manner) since I have
been married to you, has given any reason to doubt
either my duty or affection, that you should imagine
such a preface necessary to introduce whatever you
think proper to command.’

‘Very true, my dearest life. But—but—but there
are some things, the nature of which requires delicacy,
even to you, whose understanding is superior to the
foibles of your sex. You know the young lady Worth-
land! I have received intimation that my address
would not be unacceptable to her. Now as her rank
and fortune would entitle me to expect the first ho-
nours in the state, I have that confidence in the attach-
ment and love of my dearest girl, as to think that you
will not oppose my interest.’—

‘As how!’ (replied she eagerly, alarmed at the hint,
but unwilling to think so meanly of him as to under-
stand it) ‘As how! What interest can you possibly
have in her rank and fortune?’

‘The interest which the law gives an husband. Pos-
session! absolute possession of the whole.’—

‘An husband? Good God! how can that be! Are
you not already married?’—

‘True, my dearest life! but as that marriage is a se-
cret, if it can be kept so, it will be no obstacle. You
shall remain, as you are, the wife of my love; and I
will be only the husband of her fortune.’—

‘How you men, whose minds are stronger, take
pleasure in playing with the weakness of woman? The
very mention of such a thing even in jest, (for it is im-
possible you can be serious) strikes me with horror.’—

‘In jest! I am serious upon my honour; and expect
your

your immediate compliance, as a proof of your duty and affection.'

'And can you mention honour in the same breath, with such a base proposal? what a profanation of the word! But whether you are serious or not, I must be so on such an occasion; and therefore I declare that I never will sacrifice both honour and conscience, by giving what you are pleased to call a proof of duty and affection, but what would really prove that I had neither.'-----

'This romantic spirit-child, much as you think it becomes you, is all thrown away. I am determined; and you must submit. But let me tell you, that on the manner of that submission depends your future welfare. If you comply properly with my proposal, I will make a settlement upon you, that shall exceed any expectations you could naturally have had in life, and remain your husband, in every thing but the empty name. But if you attempt making the least opposition to my will, I cast you off from this moment to beggary and shame; nor shall any late repentance ever bring me to receive you again; so consider the consequence before you rashly run upon your ruin; I shall expect your final resolution to-morrow.'-----

'For that you need not wait a moment. I fear no consequence that can attend my doing what is right. The duty of obedience, I have fulfilled in its utmost extent, by immuring myself thus, and forfeiting my good name to keep your secret; but while my conscience witnessed for the purity of my heart, I regarded not the present censure of the world, no more than I do now, from the same principles of virtuous resolu-

tion, your vain threats, for in such a light, the laws of my country enable me to hold them.'—

'The laws of your country, madam! Then claim their protection if you please; but you will find that they afford none to you. Such marriages as your's, between people professing different religions, are made void by those laws; and therefore if you think proper to depend upon them, I give you this notice, that you have nothing to expect from me, but what they shall procure you.'—

'And was this your motive, (returned she, with a spirit raised by indignation) for desiring a private marriage? Impossible! you could not, cannot be so base. You only have a mind to try my resolution, which you shall ever find immoveable in this, and every cause of virtue and honour.'—

'Madam, I have no more time to trifle in this manner; therefore once more I desire you to let me know your final determination; for notwithstanding this behaviour, I still have such a regard for you, that I am unwilling to take an answer which must separate us for ever. Think then, before you speak; and let my making you this generous offer, and preventing your exposing yourself in vain, teach you a return of proper gratitude.'

'I want not a moment to determine between virtue and vice, infamy and honour.'—

'Then take the consequence; and blame yourself, when it is too late.'—

'I will; if any blame falls on me. And now that I see you are serious, in return for the notice you have so generously given me, I let you know, that I have obviated the advantage you flatter yourself you have over me,

me; by conforming legally to your religion before I was married to you.'—

'Confusion! what is that you say? When, where, did you conform?'—

'When I went to the wedding of my cousin; as you will find upon enquiry, which I advise you to make before you proceed farther in a scheme that can only expose you to worse infamy than that with which you threatened me.'

'Infernal witch! Was this your love?'—

'No; it was the prudence of my friends.'

'My love could harbour no doubt of you; but they knew you better; and took this honest, wise precaution to guard against villainy, which I now am sensible they foresaw; and therefore, as you have thought proper to refer me to the law, I now tell you that I will immediately claim its protection, and declare my marriage, nor suffer any longer in the opinion of the world, by a secrecy that was enjoined for so base a purpose; by which I shall at least have the satisfaction of saving another woman from falling into the snare laid for her.'—

Saying this, she flung out of the room to conceal tears, which she thought would betray a weakness unworthy of her, and could no longer restrain.

The nature of my master's meditations on this discovery may be easily conceived. He cursed that foolish fondness, which had thus led him blindfold into his own snare; and damn'd all womankind, in revenge for being foiled at his own weapons by one of the sex.

When he had vented his rage in this manner for some time, a sudden gleam of hope flatter'd him, that what she said might possibly have been only the instan-

taneous suggestion of resentment and despair, without being really true. Pleased with the thought, he sent directly to make the proper enquiry, the result of which confirm'd the defeat of all his designs. But this was not the only mortification he suffer'd. His wife, the moment she left him, went to her father, and discovering to him her husband's baseness, he supported her in her resolution of declaring her marriage, as the most proper means to prevent his forming any farther schemes against her.

The consequence is obvious. The public received such a curious piece of scandal with pleasure; and paid respect to his wife, if only to shew contempt for him; particularly the women, who made her's the cause of the sex, as he had precluded all farther designs, upon himself, by marriage.

This though, however flattering to her vanity and resentment at the time, only widened a breach that she wished to close. His pride was piqued to disappoint her design, as she had his, and he left her to languish out the rest of her life in worse than widowhood, and repent of the folly of attempting to attach to herself a man who she knew had betrayed others of the sex.

As for my master, this detection made him desperate. He threw off every appearance of regard even to common decency, which he thought could no longer be of use to him, and determined to bear down scandal, by glorying in his vices; in the performance of which gallant resolution, he gave me to a stage-dancer, who gave me to a half-pay officer, who gave me to a tavern-keeper, &c.---Vol. II.

C H A P. XVIII.

CHRYSAL gives an account of certain interesting occurrences. An extraordinary definition of a common word. Great expectations disappointed. The consequence of planning in the closet the operations of the field, with the origin of that sagacious practice.

(CHRYSAL's master in the course of his journey from VIENNA to LISBON, falls in with one of the armies engaged in carrying on the war.)

'The army through which my master was obliged to pass, as I have said, though paid by England, and the flower of it composed of Britons, was commanded by a German general, in disgraceful acknowledgment of the want of military merit equal to such a charge, in the natives.'... Vol. II.

Such an indignity to a people ever famed in war, and jealous of their honour, must appear unaccountable; but the web of human policy is woven in so mysterious a manner, as to reconcile inconsistencies still harder to be accounted for, on the common principles of reason.

When this army was first formed, the command of it was given to a Briton, whose military abilities had in their opening dawn saved his country from ruin, and now in their meridian promised to raise his name to an equality in glory, with those of most renown, in the long list of heroes; but the wisdom of those measures by which the world is governed, defeated expectations so justly founded, and deprived his country for ever of the advantage of such abilities.

As the professed design of this army was only to ob-

serve the motions of the French, and defend the allies of England from their attacks, it was judged sufficient to make it barely of such a force as might effect that defence, with the assistance of those allies themselves. Though an inferior army may act successfully on the defensive in repelling an immediate assault upon itself, yet where its attention is extended to the defence of distant objects, the necessity of dividing such inferior strength enhances the disproportion, so as not only to defeat the design, but also often to involve the defenders in the ruin they were meant to avert from others.

The danger of such an event was evident in the present case, but some divisions in the English councils made it impossible to obviate it, by making the force of the army equal to the end it was appointed for; certain patriots having opposed the forming of any army at all, with so plausible and popular arguments, that the sovereign was obliged to be satisfied for the present, with the shadow of one, as I may say, in expectation of being able to reinforce it, by degrees, as the patriots expected to make their compliance with such a measure, the means for gaining the end of their patriotism, that is, raising themselves to power.

You seem surprized at my calling men, who could act with such a view, and oppose a measure, which I have said to be founded on every motive of honour and justice, by the respectable name of patriots. But in this, as in very many other things, the name remains after the idea it was designed to represent is lost. Patriotism, that once meant the noblest exertion of disinterested virtue, by which every attention to private advantage was sacrificed to the public good, signifies now no more than an opposition to the measures of government, whether right or wrong, supported by such preferences

tences as are most likely to inflame the passions of the people, till the governors are so embarrassed, as to be obliged to admit the patriots to a share of their power, when they directly throw off the mask for some other to take up; and do themselves the very things which they before declaimed against with such noise and vehemence. By this general description I do not absolutely preclude a few particular exceptions; nor deny the merit of some men, who even in modern times have deserved the name, in all the honour of its original meaning.

The nature of such a command, and the improbability of its success, would have deterred any man from accepting it, who was not actuated by principles so truly patriotic, as to make him disregard every other motive, for the mere possibility of serving his country.

As the abilities of the general often make up for the weakness of an army, the Britons under his command confiding in him, looked upon the superior force of their enemies with pleasure, as promising him the greater glory. Nor was this confidence without foundation; he had led them to victory before, when they scarce deserved the name of regular forces; and had since, with unwearied care, assisted their native valour with every advantage of the most judicious discipline. Under such a commander therefore, what might not such troops hope to do? But a difficulty still more distressing than the inferiority of his force disappointed all those hopes.

Military operations are so complicated, that every motion of an army requires a correspondent one, in that opposed to it. The obvious truth of this shews the sagacity of planning in the closet, the operations of the field. Particular objects indeed may be proposed; but the method of accomplishing them must be left to the judgment of the commander, as occasion may direct, it being

being absolutely impossible to foresee, and provide for all the instantaneous contingencies, which must make an immediate deviation from any system, that could have been laid down, indispensably necessary. Where this discretionary power is abridged, and the motions of a General marked out for him, it must be from the fault of his adversaries, if he performs any thing of consequence.

The first who introduced this scheme of shackling a commander were churchmen, who, puffed up by the power which their influence over the weakness of princes gave them, disdained to appear incapable of any thing; and therefore, as their want of military knowledge would not permit their undertaking the actual command of armies, they took this method of shewing their abilities and authority, by directing how the commanders of them should proceed; a method, however absurd in itself, so flattering to human self-sufficiency, that princes adopted it after, when age or infirmity prevented their leading their forces in the field.

CHAP. XIX.

Continued: The natural event of such a situation. The General victorious over himself, quits the pursuit of military glory for the practice of the virtues of peace. Perfidy of the enemy justly punished. The army is formed again under the command of a GERMAN, and a sugar-plumb given to the ENGLISH to stop their mouths at such an insult.

DISTRESSED more by directions of this kind than even by the weakness of his army, the British general took the field, rather in obedience to his duty than from

from any hope of success, and literally to observe the motions of an enemy whom he was able to oppose.

The event was as he foresaw. The enemy superior in strength, and at liberty to seize every advantage, while he could only act in consequence of orders given at a distance, and impossible to be always proper, soon turned his attention from the defence of others to the preservation of his own army. But even this, the circumstances he was in made it impossible for all his judgment and intrepidity to effect, though displayed in a manner that made his name immortal, otherwise than by giving up the countries he was sent to defend on the best terms he could procure, and disarming his own troops.

Mortifying as such a necessity must have been to an heart panting for glory, his conduct under it reflected more real honour upon him than any victory gained against probability, at the imminent hazard of the loss of his whole army could have done, as it shewed that he was superior even to the desire of fame, when clashing with the interests of his country.

But they who had driven him to this necessity, by disabling him from pursuing the dictates of his own judgment, thought proper to view his conduct in another light, and censure in him their own errors. The honest indignation of conscious virtue could not brook treatment so disingenuous. In justice to himself therefore, here signed all military command; and quitting the professions of arms for ever, devoted the remainder of his days to the practice of every virtue of peace.

As to the countries which had been thus disappointed from defending, their troubles ended not so easily.

The enemy, in the insolence of power, soon broke through the terms on which they had been given up, and treated the army that had submitted on the security of public faith, with every instance of the most flagrant injustice.

All obligations are mutual. The breach of one party therefore disengages the other. Provoked by such perfidy, the injured army joined the natives, and arose with all the fury of revenge upon their oppressors. Such attacks are not to be resisted. The tyrants were driven out of all their conquests; and, to prevent their recovery of them, the army was formed again of force sufficient to accomplish the end proposed; and the command of it given to a German of proved abilities, free from the restrictions which had made those of the late commander of no effect, his miscarriage having shewn the absurdity of them; and the English patriots, who had before opposed the raising any such army, having succeeded in their views of getting into power, and now aiding the design with all their influence; 'though to palliate their disgrace, and to satisfy the jealousy of the English, they had the imaginary privilege of being immediately under a commander of their own, and subject only to their own laws, in all things except the operations of the war, when they were of necessity to obey the German commander in chief.'—

VOL. II.





